



2664 Willis Foreman Rd.  
Hephzibah, GA 30815  
706.792.9972

Sunday Worship  
1030 am  
www.foclc.org

### **"Always a Lady"**

*Minister Isabella Piña Richard B. Peoples Sr.*  
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**Introduction:** Being a woman in this day and age is not easy. The voices of feminism, pro-choice, sexual harassment and discrimination, along with the challenges of daily living often make it difficult to live by biblical values and high ethical standards. From talk shows to magazines, topics regarding physical appearance, weight management, sexuality, self perception and loneliness gives us a glimpse into the pressures that women face. (*Story of young girls marrying by the time they turn 30*)

**Our lesson today is Entitled "Always a Lady" based on the book "The successful family by Pastor Creflo Dollar"**

**Our foundational scriptures will be found in Proverbs 31: 10-31**

- While men base their success on what they have achieved, *we base our success* on the strength of our bond with *another individual*.  
Our deepest longing in life is to experience fulfillment through relationships. WHY? Because God created us this way. We were created from the rib of a man – hence the need for intimacy and closeness.
- Because of the way that we were created, and the fact that we seek out these relationships; we (as women) often fall prey to the pursuit. For example:
  - (1) If her mind is not renewed, a woman might try to secure a relationship through *false impressions, manipulation or sexuality*.
  - (2) She may try to find new relationships to erase the *pain and rejection* from her past
  - (3) These all lead to inner turmoil, depression, low self esteem and other emotional issues.
- It is very important for a woman to completely understand herself and her place in a relationship. This understanding only comes from a change in thinking, by the renewing of the mind through the word of God. This is THE ONLY WAY!
  - PROVERBS 31: This is a passage that we should all know as women. We should read it regularly and attempt to apply its truths to our lives. This passage gives us insight on how to operate in the many roles we function in on a daily basis: ***as a woman, daughter, wife and mother***.



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Most of us have at least read this passage at least once and if you have not you may want to do an in-depth study on it, at home. *I never paid too much attention to this passage until I started dating my husband and when he would write anything to me he would call me his proverbs 31 woman/virtuous woman.*

*The first time he wrote that to me I went and studied this passage scripture to see exactly what he is talking about, well you do not have to be like me and wait till you were dating to find out about it. You can study it now so you can be knowledgeable about it the next time you hear someone talk about the "Proverbs 31 Woman" or even call you a virtuous woman.*

- As a woman of God you must spend time with God and cultivate your relationship with Him in order to mature spiritually, trust God more, and fulfill His plan for your life; because when you do not know God's plan for you life, any man – or woman in these days – can persuade you in believing that they know what God's plan is for your life.
- You must read and study Proverbs 31, so you can understand how to position yourself as a Godly woman. ***There is supposed to be a difference between a Godly woman and a worldly woman.*** I know now that it might be difficult to tell by the way some women conduct themselves, but we should be striving to let the world know that there is a distinction.

To establish any successful relationship, you will first have to understand these principles about your self:

**1. You have Value:** Proverbs 31:10 (Amplified Bible) "A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman--who is he who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far above rubies or pearls."

You must understand your value: According to this scripture a true, godly woman is such a rare and precious find that she is esteemed above the treasures of the world.

As a woman, you have incredible worth. Not only are you a daughter of the Most High God but:

- you were created to manage a household
- give birth and train children
- soothe and encourage your man
- listen attentively with both your natural ears and the ears of your heart
- and manage your time wisely; while at the same time holding down a full time job.

As a woman you are so valuable to the plan of God that creation could not continue to exist without you.

Through these God-given abilities and the words you and I speak, ***we have the power to make kings and leaders of man.*** ( *Example of Ricardo building a table*)

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Think about your words. Once you let them go, you can never retrieve them and it can easily **make or break** a man.

Your mood can also affect the entire household. You are responsible for the mood in your home.

- In your relationships, make sure you know your value and hold unto it.
- Esteem yourself the way God esteems you.
- Under no circumstance should you allow anyone, including yourself, to make you feel unworthy or less than your best.

Never stay in a relationship just to keep from being alone. Remember that our previous classes taught you that you are **single but not alone**. (*example: you have a job and work all day long and you have a man that is sitting at his home doing absolutely nothing and waits till you get off of work to find out what you cook so he can come over to eat...Get rid of him because he does not understand your worth*).

God did not create you to be abused (abnormal use of something) and misused. When God's Word is inside of you; you will know how a man should treat you and you will not settle for anything less.

As women we must learn how to enhance our femininity: **(See pg 51 & 52 in book)** A genuine, Godly lady knows that the less she shows, the more elegant and feminine she appears: (*example of how I used to like short skirts and bear it all when I was in a backsliding stage-following the wrong crowd-not knowing my value.*)

**When you really see the value of who you are, you will begin to respect yourself and demand the same respect from others.** In addition you will be able to see the man who will protect you from what is contrary to God's word.

**2. You should have a vision:** [Proverbs 29:18 \(Amplified Bible\)](#) "Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]--blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he."

So many times as women we tend to present unto God a list of all the things we **want** and not necessarily seeking him for our **needs**. There is a vast difference between our needs and our desires. David said, ([Psalms 37:4](#)) Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

There is a prerequisite that must be met before God can give us the desires of our heart.....which is 'you must delight yourself in the Lord.'

Sometimes in life, if we are not careful, we will miss what God is trying to say to us because we are so occupied with self and things around us.

*-story of how I met Ricardo in 1998*



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-I wrote God a list of everything I needed in my life and the things that wanted but I spent very little time in His Word.

**Examples:** *\*\*a man after God's own heart: and give me the clarity of mind to be able to sift the real one from the fake ones.*

**-Family man---***I grew up in a large family*

**-A secure man with purpose and direction---***because I grew up in very hard times and knew how to be independent at a very young age*

**-Financially secure person:** *financial security does not mean that he had to have a million dollars but he had to know how to use what we have to take care of our family.*

I made up this list because you know it is the New Year and we all make New Year resolution and I kind of made that my resolution. I had a vision and I had to write it down and made it plain and that's what I did.

On the want side I wrote:

-Handsome-black like my boots because the blacker he is better for me.

-at least 6 ft tall

-pretty white teeth with pink gums and thick lips

-has no children

I was making it pain and to the point. These were my wants.

*(KEEP TELLING THE STORY)*

Years later after I was married and all God revealed to me that:

All the while I was trying to get a man; I was trying to get a man that fit the description of my father. My father was never around, and when he was around he did not approve of anything I did-good or bad. I spent years trying to find my Dad in those men. (Picture of my dad)

I underwent verbal emotional and physical abuse. Why? I did not know my value as a woman of God. ***I settled for less because I did not know how much I was worth.***

Through all of this my faith in God was being perfected and I was being prepared for the JEWEL that God would place into my life in the form of Ricardo.

I had no idea that he would have showed up under such circumstances (in a war-torn country like Bosnia) and he looked nothing like the man I told God that I wanted, an illusion that I created in my mind as a young lady to fill the void and ease my hurt.

The night my husband approached me, I cried to God and said that is not what I requested. I cried and I cried and I cried some more.

GOD is not moved by our tears, our feelings nor our emotions. He is moved by faith and His spoken words.

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When I was finished feeling sorry for myself and seek God's word, God spoke to me and said" I am presenting you with a husband and not a father.

I gave this whole testimony to say that:

1. **You are valuable** and when you are unaware of the value of something/someone it is easy to misuse/abuse it.
  - a) (Prvovebs 3:15) She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.
  - b) (Jeremiah 1:5) Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. God knows you better than you know yourself—He is your creator.
2. **Know what you standards you need in a man** and do not compromise your worth.
3. **You can be single and be whole.** Don't use a man to be anything else to you than what God created him to be.
4. **Know your purpose in life.** If you do not know your purpose you need to know why you are here. A good place to find out is at school of life, we are now studying a book called in the pursuit of purpose by Dr. Myles Munroe. It will give you some great insights.

**3. You are a Helper:** (Genesis 2:18) And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis tells us that the woman was created as a **help** – one who aids and is suitable and equipped for every task. That word does not imply a subservient mentality. It does not mean that you have to make yourself be used as a doormat – that is the world's version of help mate.

***It simply means that women have the ability, through God, to do whatever is necessary to get the job done.*** Most men are called to do specific things, but a woman has a pool of abilities from which she can draw and do many things.

(Proverbs31: 11-12) The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

This man trusts her because the proverbs 31 woman has learned how to tap into the ***anointing of the helper***. It's like the new saying '**next** to ever great man is a great woman'. The old saying says **behind** but just as Pastor Peoples explained to us, Eve from taken from Adam's side and not anywhere behind his back.

As women of God, don't be intimidated by the man **God presents to you**. It does not matter if he is the president of a bank, a Pastor, or a janitor. You should never turn away from an opportunity to meet a potential mate because you feel in adequate. Remember know you value and if he is a man after God and he values you and wants to treat you right, then learn to grow into your position alongside him.

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You must learn to grow and operate in the anointing that you have been given as a help. Every anointing has been available to you to make your relationship successful: you can pursue your dreams and at the same time help your husband pursue his, as long as it lines up with the vision of God for your life.

**4. You are not a Gossiper: (Proverbs 31:26) “She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”**

When a virtuous woman says something, it should be wise and kind. She does not ‘eat the bread of idleness’ meaning gossip, discontent and self pity.

**Women with a purpose tend to participate in productive and encouraging conversations.** I know it may be difficult for us but it is something that we must practice.

Do yourself a favor and watch the women and men you associate with. Does the talk between you encourage godliness?

God promised us in Proverbs 13:20 that if we **fellowship with wise people, we will be wise**, but if we keep close relationship with foolish people, we will be destroyed.

Your relationship with your man might be damaged right now because you’ve listened to the gossip of other women, saying what they would or would not put up with. You never took into account that the women that are giving you this ungodly advice have been divorced probably three times and still don’t have a husband right now.

As a woman, your longevity is in reverence of God and his word. ***You cannot expect to experience success in your relationships by neglecting to align your life with God’s word.***

You cannot compromise God’s word because of some kind of relationship that you are trying to hold on to that does not align to his word.



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**Conclusion:** Words of wisdom.

Change only comes when you renew your mind to the word of God. As you immerse yourself in His presence, knowledge and understanding come, enabling you to walk confidently as a person of value, integrity and character.

**It is only through your relationship with God that you can mature as a woman and experience His best in your life.**

When you seek to become all that God has equipped you to be, you won't have to praise yourself – your own works will praise you (Proverbs31:31). You will know how to operate with sensitivity, wisdom and courtesy in any given situation and know how to carry yourself as a Godly woman. You won't have to chase a compliment, because your integrity will speak for itself.

**By the godly life you live, your own works will pave the way for favor, adoration, and the man of your dreams.** And even after you've married, your husband will adore you and your children will imitate you – the highest compliment of all

We all should examine areas in our life where we have not valued ourselves. Then begin to work on those areas by changing our thoughts, the way we may dress or take care of our bodies, protecting our conversations and by helping others.

10 Who can find a woman of virtue? For her value <i>is</i> far above jewels.	10 A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman--who is he who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far above rubies or pearls. [ <i>Proverbs 12:4; 18:22; 19:14</i> ]	10 A truly good wife is the most precious treasure a man can find!	10 A good woman is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds.
11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, so that he has no lack <i>of</i> gain.	11 The heart of her husband trusts in her confidently and relies on and believes in her securely, so that he has no lack of [ <i>honest</i> ] gain or need of [ <i>dishonest</i> ] spoil.	11 Her husband depends on her, and she never lets him down.	11 Her husband trusts her without reserve, and never has reason to regret it.
12 She deals good with him, and not evil, all the days of her life.	12 She comforts, encourages, and does him only good as long as there is life within her.	12 She is good to him every day of her life,	12 Never spiteful, she treats him generously all her life long.
13 She seeks wool and flax, and she works <i>with</i> her hands <i>with</i> delight.	13 She seeks out wool and flax and works with willing hands [ <i>to develop it</i> ].	13 and with her own hands she gladly makes clothes.	13 She shops around for the best yarns and cottons, and enjoys knitting and sewing.
14 She is like the merchant ships, she brings in her food from afar.	14 She is like the merchant ships loaded with foodstuffs; she brings her household's food from a far [ <i>country</i> ].	14 She is like a sailing ship that brings food from across the sea.	14 She's like a trading ship that sails to faraway places and brings back exotic surprises.
15 She also rises while <i>it is</i> still night and gives game to her household, and a portion to her maidens.	15 She rises while it is yet night and gets [ <i>spiritual</i> ] food for her household and assigns her maids their tasks. [ <i>Job 23:12</i> ]	15 She gets up before daylight to prepare food for her family and for her servants.	15 She's up before dawn, preparing breakfast for her family and organizing her day.
16 She has examined a field and takes it; she plants a vineyard from the fruit of her hands.	16 She considers a [ <i>new</i> ] field before she buys or accepts it [ <i>expanding prudently and not courting neglect of her present duties by assuming other duties</i> ]; with her savings [ <i>of time and strength</i> ] she plants fruitful vines in her vineyard. [ <i>S. of Sol. 8:12</i> ]	16 She knows how to buy land and how to plant a vineyard,	16 She looks over a field and buys it, then, with money she's put aside, plants a garden.
17 She has girded her loins with strength, and has made her arms strong.	17 She girds herself with strength [ <i>spiritual, mental, and physical fitness for her God-given task</i> ] and makes her arms strong and firm.	17 and she always works hard.	17 First thing in the morning, she dresses for work, rolls up her sleeves, eager to get started.
18 She tastes whether her gain <i>is</i> good, her lamp is not put out by night.	18 She tastes and sees that her gain from work [ <i>with and for God</i> ] is good; her lamp goes not out, but it burns on continually through the night [ <i>of trouble, privation, or sorrow, warning away fear, doubt, and distrust</i> ].	18 She knows when to buy or sell, and she stays busy until late at night.	18 She senses the worth of her work, is in no hurry to call it quits for the day.
19 She has sent forth her hands on the distaff, and her hands have held the spindle.	19 She lays her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.	19 She spins her own cloth,	19 She's skilled in the crafts of home and hearth, diligent in homemaking.
20 She spreads out her hands to the poor, yea, she stretches out her hands to the needy.	20 She opens her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her filled hands to the needy [ <i>whether in body, mind, or spirit</i> ].	20 and she helps the poor and the needy.	20 She's quick to assist anyone in need, reaches out to help the poor.
21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household <i>are</i> clothed <i>with</i> scarlet.	21 She fears not the snow for her family, for all her household are doubly clothed in scarlet. [ <i>Joshua 2:18, 19; Hebrews 9:19-22</i> ]	21 Her family has warm clothing, and so she doesn't worry when it snows.	21 She doesn't worry about her family when it snows; their winter clothes are all mended and ready to wear.
22 She makes herself ornamental coverings; her clothing <i>is</i> bleached <i>linen</i> and purple.	22 She makes for herself coverlets, cushions, and rugs of tapestry. Her clothing is of linen, pure and fine, and of purple [ <i>such as that of which the</i>	22 She does her own sewing, and everything she wears is beautiful.	22 She makes her own clothing, and dresses in colorful linens and silks.



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*clothing of the priests and the hallowed  
cloths of the temple were made].*  
[Isaiah 61:10; 1 Timothy 2:9;  
Revelation 3:5; 19:8, 14]

23 Her husband is known in the gates,  
when he sits with the elders of the land.

23 Her husband is known in the [city's]  
gates, when he sits among the elders of  
the land. [Proverbs 12:4]

23 Her husband is a well-known and  
respected leader in the city.

23 Her husband is greatly  
respected when he deliberates  
with the city fathers.

24 She makes fine linen garments, and  
sells, and she delivers girdles to the  
merchant.

24 She makes fine linen garments and  
leads others to buy them; she delivers to  
the merchants girdles [or sashes that  
free one up for service].

24 She makes clothes to sell to the shop  
owners.

24 She designs gowns and sells  
them, brings the sweaters she  
knits to the dress shops.

25 Strength and dignity *are* her  
clothing, and she shall rejoice at the day  
to come.

25 Strength and dignity are her  
clothing and her position is strong and  
secure; she rejoices over the future [the  
latter day or time to come, knowing  
that she and her family are in  
readiness for it]!

25 She is strong and graceful, as well as  
cheerful about the future.

25 Her clothes are well-made  
and elegant, and she always  
faces tomorrow with a smile.

26 She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
and the law of kindness *is* on her  
tongue.

26 She opens her mouth in skillful and  
godly Wisdom, and on her tongue is the  
law of kindness [giving counsel and  
instruction].

26 Her words are sensible, and her  
advice is thoughtful.

26 When she speaks she has  
something worthwhile to say,  
and she always says it kindly.

27 She watches the ways of her  
household, and does not eat the bread  
of idleness.

27 She looks well to how things go in  
her household, and the bread of  
idleness (gossip, discontent, and self-  
pity) she will not eat. [1 Timothy 5:14;  
Tit. 2:5]

27 She takes good care of her family  
and is never lazy.

27 She keeps an eye on  
everyone in her household, and  
keeps them all busy and  
productive.

28 Her children rise up and call her  
blessed, her husband *also*, for he  
praises her:

28 Her children rise up and call her  
blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be  
envied); and her husband boasts of and  
praises her, [saying],

28 Her children praise her, and with  
great pride her husband says,

28 Her children respect and  
bless her; her husband joins in  
with words of praise:

29 Many *are* the daughters who act  
with virtue, but you rise above them all!

29 Many daughters have done  
virtuously, nobly, and well [with the  
strength of character that is steadfast  
in goodness], but you excel them all.

29 "There are many good women, but  
you are the best!"

29 "Many women have done  
wonderful things, but you've  
outclassed them all!"

30 Grace *may be* deceitful, and beauty  
vain, *but* a woman who fears Jehovah,  
she shall be praised.

30 Charm and grace are deceptive, and  
beauty is vain [because it is not  
lasting], but a woman who reverently  
and worshipfully fears the Lord, she  
shall be praised!

30 Charm can be deceiving, and beauty  
fades away, but a woman who honors  
the LORD deserves to be praised.

30 Charm can mislead and  
beauty soon fades. The woman  
to be admired and praised is the  
woman who lives in the Fear-of-  
GOD.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the  
gates.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands,  
and let her own works praise her in the  
gates [of the city]! [Philippians 4:8]

31 Show her respect-- praise her in  
public for what she has done.

31 Give her everything she  
deserves! Festoon her life with  
praises!