

MARRIAGE
The Wife's Role
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When I was a child in the 1970's, there was a billboard advertisement which pictured a young attractive woman smoking Virginia Slims cigarettes. The caption stated, "You've come a long way baby." The implication was that she had freed herself of the stereotypical view of a woman's place in society. I also remember a television commercial which showed a woman singing, "I can bring home the bacon and fry it up in a pan, cause I'm a woman." This commercial was also promoting a "liberated" woman who is more than a supportive wife and loving mother. She is one who can be independent as she pursues her own career and interests outside of the home.

Today, our culture would have us to believe that a woman cannot find fulfillment and realize her potential if she doesn't have a career outside of the home. Some would even call a "non-working" woman lazy. Ironically, the Bible describes a virtuous woman (a woman of ability and skill) as one who "*...eateth not the bread of idleness.*" (Pro. 31:27) In other words, the responsibilities of a wife and mother include challenging and time consuming work. A woman of real ability and skill is one that devotes her time to the proper management of the home. Although the husband/father has great responsibility as the leader and overseer, especially in training and disciplining the children; the daily management of the home is generally her responsibility. The scriptures emphasize the husband's responsibility to work and provide for the family, while the wife takes care of the affairs of the household.*

In order to transform our thinking from worldly wisdom to godly wisdom, consider some of the characteristics of a virtuous woman described in Proverbs 31.

**As more families choose to home school their children, it is especially needful that mothers be relieved of the time consuming burden to provide for the family in a financial way.*