

Study Notes: Godly Honour

Message Summary

This message, shared on Mother's Day, highlights the biblical mandate to honour and respect women, recognising them as the completion of God's perfect creation. Grounded in Genesis, the sermon explores how men and women are uniquely created in the image of God to be complementary. It challenges men to actively honour the women in their lives, wives, mothers, friends, and sisters in Christ, mirroring the sacrificial way Christ loves the Church. Finally, it reframes Proverbs 31, presenting it not as an impossible standard of perfection to attain, but as a freeing encouragement for women to pursue godly wisdom in their unique life situations.

Key Points

- **The Completion of Creation:** Women are created in the image of God. The Hebrew word for helper (*Eza/Ezer*) does not mean subservient; it refers to providing assistance beyond the recipient's own ability. Women are the fulfillment and completion of God's original creation.
- **The Responsibility of Honour:** Men are called to honour women as Christ loved the Church (Ephesians 5). Dishonouring women is ultimately dishonouring oneself, as we are all "bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh."
- **Honour is an Active Choice:** Honour does not just magically appear; it flows from the character of Jesus and the fruit of the Spirit. It must be actively chosen and outworked daily, especially in moments when we are tired, struggling, or in disagreement.
- **Wisdom, Not Perfection:** Proverbs 31 is a teaching for both men and women. For women, it is meant to be a model of wisdom and character, not a stressful to-do list or a demand for perfectionism.

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon explained that the biblical word for "helper" implies bringing extra strength and assistance beyond our own ability, rather than being submissive or less than equal. How does this understanding of men and women being uniquely complementary shape the way we view our relationships with one another in the church?
2. We were reminded that honour isn't something we can just pick up at a store; it comes from the character of Jesus and must be actively chosen, even when we feel tired or face disagreements. What does it look like practically to "activate" honour towards the people in your life this coming week?
3. Proverbs 31 is often viewed as an intimidating checklist for the "perfect" woman, but the message encouraged us to see it simply as a model for pursuing godly wisdom. How does shifting our focus from *achieving perfection* to *exercising wisdom* change the way we approach our daily responsibilities and our personal walk with God?