



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE

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CAN I DO IT ALL?

Proverbs 31:10-31 (ESV)

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant;
she brings her food from afar. She rises while it is yet night and provides food
for her household and portions for her maidens.

She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

Wow! Proverbs 31 can either invigorate and motivate or bring a burden of guilt and hopelessness.

Do you think you should be able to do it all – have a successful career, be a wife and mother, and lead LWML on the society, zone, district, and national level all at once? Are you competing for the mother-of-the-year award? How about daughter-in-law of the year? Or, perhaps your role model is Martha Stewart and you strive for a HOUSE BEAUTIFUL home.

You can be all that God wants you to be, but not all at the same time. You need to tackle each opportunity in season.

In Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon says there is "a season for every activity." The secret is to embrace the season you are in right now. If you do not learn to do that, everybody will suffer, especially you. You'll find yourself resenting your kids, your husband, and your unending task list.

When poor goal-setting or inadequate planning leads to failure, ask for God's forgiveness and try again, asking for His help in every endeavor.

Some of us can probably speak from personal experience on what not to do. God works in our spirits over the years to rest in Him and allow Him to set the agendas for our days. Look at your life this day. What are your "church" duties? Your LWML duties? Home and family?

Have you learned in this season of your life to decline some which may not be as important as some of the others? Are you allowing others the opportunity to serve? Can you accept that you may have to say *no* once in a while? You need to set boundaries on your time and talents.

What has God given you to do today? Whatever it is, do it with joy! Treasure your children and grandchildren - soon they are grown. Savor your career and the opportunity to serve with Lutheran Women in Mission. Relish the responsibility of being salt and light, and influence those around you for God!

You are not a failure because you cannot do it all - you're human! You are, however, a precious child of the One who has done it all.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, I have not always worked diligently on the tasks You have given me to do. Thank You for having done all that was needed on the cross for me. I want to serve You in whatever I do. Help me to set the proper balance in my life so I am a good witness for You in all areas. – home, church, work, and community. I give my life over to You. In Your holy name. Amen.*

Adapted/Originally written by Linda Arnold
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SAVE THE DATE - LWML CNH Retreat, ECCO - Aug 27-29, 2021