



Clothed with Dignity

by Linda Minnick

*Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she smiles at the future.
Proverbs 31:25*

The Context

The Woman Who Feels the LORD

*The more deeply it is studied—provided only it be
'practically' studied—the more will its beauty be understood
and felt. Charles Bridges*

- vs. 10—her Worth
- vs. 11-24—her Works (5 mentions of “hands”)
- vs. 25-27—her Character (also illustrated in vs. 11-24)
 - STRONG..... *Strength and*
 - DIGNIFIED..... *dignity are her clothing,*
 - CONFIDENT *and she smiles at the future.*
 - WISE..... *She opens her mouth in wisdom,*
 - KIND *and the teaching of kindness is*
on her tongue.
 - EFFICIENT *She looks well to the ways of her*
household,
 - INDUSTRIOUS *and does not eat the bread of*
idleness.
- vs. 28-31—her Praise

“Strength and DIGNITY are her Clothing”

What is Dignity?

DIGNITY is:

- not pride
- not being unapproachable
- not putting on airs
- not an attitude of superiority
- not based on material wealth
- not based on amount of education
- not based on social status
- not based on personality
- not limited to certain activities
- not limited to people of certain age categories

DIGNITY is a characteristic that is true of all women who fear the Lord.



Bible Definitions of DIGNITY

English Dictionary: the state or quality of being worthy of honor or respect.

I. The Old Testament Hebrew Word

A. The Meaning

*Psalm 29:3-4 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; The God of glory thunders, the LORD is over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful, the voice of the LORD is **majestic**.*

*1 Chronicles 16:26-27 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and **majesty** are before Him, strength and joy are in His place.*

*Psalm 145:5, 10-12 On the glorious **splendor** of Your majesty and on Your wonderful works, I will meditate. All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and Your godly ones shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your power; to make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts and the glory of the **majesty** of Your kingdom.*

B. The Motivation

The Proverbs 31 woman is motivated by her **fear of the Lord**.

“The fear of God will cause a man to flee, not from HIM, but from HIMSELF; not FROM Him but TO Him, the Father of himself.” George MacDonald

II. The New Testament Greek Word

A. Respectable or Honorable—The Behavior of Dignity

	WHO	CONTEXT
I Timothy	all believers	Godliness (prayer for authorities)
I Timothy 3:2-8	Overseers or Elders: must be . . .	<p><i>-above reproach, temperate, prudent, respectable, gentle, peaceable,</i></p> <p><i>-He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (applies to both the elder and his children)</i></p> <p><i>-(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)</i></p> <p><i>-And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, <u>not addicted to wine or pugnacious</u> . . . <u>free from the love of money.</u></i></p>
I Timothy 3:8	Deacons: must be . . .	<p>-Men of dignity, clear conscience, beyond reproach</p> <p><i>-good managers of their children and their own households</i></p> <p><i><u>-not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain</u></i></p>
Titus 2:2	Older men: are to be . . .	<i>-temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance</i>

	WHO	CONTEXT
Titus 2:7-8	Titus as a leader among the churches: Show yourself an example . . .	-purity in doctrine, dignified , sound in speech
I Timothy 3:11	the women who were serving in the local church: must be . . .	Dignified , temperate, faithful in all things <u>not malicious gossips</u>

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

DIGNITY is a respectability that gives others confidence in my spiritual maturity—a life consecrated and controlled by the Spirit of God.

B. Grave or Serious—The Viewpoint of Dignity

DIGNITY is to be “Serious in mind and character; not silly or flippant about important matters.”

MacArthur Study Bible

C. Dignity is in keeping with the Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

To have Dignity is to be governed in all our actions and relationships by the Spirit of God and to deny ourselves daily of the desires of our flesh.

D. Dignity is in Keeping with the LOVE of others as described in I Corinthians 13

*love does not brag (boast)
is not arrogant (proud)
does not act unbecomingly (is courteous)
it does not seek its own (self-seeking)*

Majesty and splendor indicate the reason that it is important for me to be clothed with Dignity—in order to honor and glorify the Majesty and Splendor of God.

Honorable and Respectable describes my Behavior—what it looks like for me to be clothed with Dignity—not for my sake but for sake of the Glory of God

Grave and Serious describe my viewpoint of life and spiritual realities now in view of the Glories of Eternity

Applications

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.

I. Outward Adorning

A. Clothed with DIGNITY means: Be Beautiful—inside and out

1 Chronicles 16:29 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Proverbs 31:22 She makes coverings for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

“Don’t be afraid to be feminine
and to add physical and spiritual loveliness
to the setting where God has placed you.”

Nancy Leigh DeMoss

1 Timothy 2:9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly.

B. Clothed with DIGNITY means: Dress appropriately to your age.

C. Clothed with DIGNITY means: To dress Modestly

II. Manner of Life

A. Dignity in Temperance

not addicted to wine; not addicted to much wine

B. Dignity in Speech

not double-tongued; not malicious gossips

C. Dignity in Temperament

not pugnacious

D. Dignity in Values

free from the love of money; not fond of sordid gain

E. Dignity in Worship

*Psalm 96:7-9 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts. **Worship the LORD in holy attire**; Tremble before Him, all the earth.*

*The Woman who Fears the Lord
is Clothed with DIGNITY*

How Majestic Is Thy Name

When I consider the work of Thy hands,
The sun, moon and stars above,
What is man that Thou thinkest of him
Who is so unworthy of Thy love?

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name.
Mountains, valleys, all creation tells Thy fame.
Heavens declare it, all Thy wondrous works proclaim:
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name.

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