



## Teaching Guide: Be of No Reputation

**Key Text: Philippians 2:7 | Proverbs 31:10–31**

### 1. Opening Premise: The Virtue of Having No Reputation

*“But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.” — Philippians 2:7*

- **Jesus modelled humility:** He emptied Himself of glory and reputation to fulfil the Father’s will.
- **Our culture** teaches us to **curate an image**, to prove our worth through titles, beauty, achievements, and platforms.
- But the **Kingdom teaches** the opposite: serve, build, nurture, and let your **works speak at the gates**.

#### Other Scriptures:

- Matthew 23:11- 12 – “The greatest among you will be your servant.”
- James 4:10 – “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”
- 1 Peter 5:6 – “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.”
- Luke 14:11 – “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**Key Thought:** To “be of no reputation” doesn’t mean to be weak, hidden, or voiceless — it means our **value isn’t self-promoted** but **God-revealed**.

### 2. The Proverbs 31 Woman — A Portrait of Strength and Fruitfulness

*“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.” — Proverbs 31:30 –31*

- She doesn’t **seek a reputation** — her **work** speaks for itself.
- She builds in silence and strength, not self-promotion.
- She is clothed in *strength and honour* (v.25).

- She is **active**, not idle: “*She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.*”(v.27)

#### Key insights:

- She is involved in **business** — buys land and plants a vineyard (v.16).
- She **creates** linen garments and sells them (v.24).
- She **prepares** food and clothing for her household (v.15, 21).
- She strengthens herself physically — “She girds herself with strength and strengthens her arms” (v.17).  
→ This speaks of **stewarding her physical body**, being strong to fulfill her calling.

### 3. Understanding the “Gates” in Biblical Culture

“*Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.*” — **Proverbs 31:23**

#### What Gates Represent:

- **Place of Authority & Influence:** City gates were where elders gathered, where legal matters were settled, and where reputations were established (Ruth 4:1–2, Proverbs 22:22, Deuteronomy 21:19).
- **Place of Honour:** Those who sat at the gate were men of wisdom and standing.
- **Place of Testimony:** A woman’s works “praise her in the gates” (v.31) → her **fruit is seen and testified to publicly**.

Scriptures about gates:

- Ruth 4:1–12 – Boaz at the gate finalising redemption.
- Proverbs 24:7 – Wisdom is too lofty for a fool; he does not open his mouth in the gate.
- Isaiah 62:10 – “Go through, go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people.”

**Key Thought:** When you build faithfully in your home and in your God-given role, your **influence reaches the gates** — your reputation is **established by fruit**, not striving.

### 4. Linen and Frequency — The Garments of Strength and Honour

“*She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.*” — Proverbs 31:24

- **Linen** in Scripture represents **righteousness and purity** (Revelation 19:8 — “the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints”).
- Scientifically, linen carries one of the **highest frequencies** among natural fabrics (~5000 Hz), which is believed to have beneficial effects on the body.

- She **clothed others** not just physically but with **an atmosphere of virtue**.

**Application:** As modern women, we can think intentionally about what we create, cultivate, and clothe others with — spiritually and physically.

## 5. She Girds Herself with Strength

*“She girds herself with strength and strengthens her arms.”* — Proverbs 31:17

- She was physically strong to carry the weight of her responsibilities.
- Stewarding our **health and strength** isn’t vanity — it’s Biblical.
- She didn’t complain about her role — she **prepared herself for it**.

## 6. Modern Culture vs. Biblical Womanhood

- Modern messages often emphasise:
  - “Self-care first.”
  - “Do less, rest more.”
  - “Don’t let anyone expect too much of you.”

While **rest is Biblical**, *idleness is not*.

- Proverbs 31 woman worked diligently.
- She was **watchful** over her household.
- She lived for a **higher purpose**, not just personal comfort.

Proverbs 31:27 — “She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

**Key Thought:** True godly womanhood is not about **burnout**, but about **fruitfulness**. God’s grace **empowers** us to do the work He has called us to.

## 7. A Woman Who Fears the Lord

- Reputation isn’t self-made; it’s **God-given**.
- When you fear the Lord:
  - Your fruit speaks for itself.
  - Your household flourishes.
  - Your influence reaches the gates.
  - You don’t have to prove yourself — God exalts you in due time.

Proverbs 31:30–31 — “A woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.”

**Reflection:**

Where have I been striving for reputation instead of fruit?

How am I stewarding my home, my strength, and my role?

**Activation / Prayer:** Declare over yourself the **Proverbs 31 identity** — not through performance but grace.

**Closing:** Let your “works praise you in the gates” — pray for fruit that speaks.

Thank you for reading. If this resource has helped you, please share it with others.  
Join us on Facebook and Instagram.  
[www.lionsarise.org](http://www.lionsarise.org)