

That #@!* Proverbs 31 Woman!

I didn't meet her until I was well into my 30s. But we've only been friends for a few years.

She used to really bug me. Too perfect. Never makes mistakes. And she gets up early, well before sunrise, and gets right to work.

Ugh.

But she is the model, I'd been told. So I did try to take her example to heart.

I had my Christian-stay-at-home-mom phase, my couponing-and-three-store-menu-planning phase, my make-crafts-and-sell-them phase.

I've even had more than one let's-get-up-before-the-sun-and-get-this-day-going phase.

Nothing stuck.

Sorry, #@!* Proverbs 31 Woman. I guess we can't be friends.

But now I see that I was trying to copy that gal's activities, not her character.

"A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." —Proverbs 31:30

The Proverbs 31 Woman isn't so #@!* after all!

Nope. Instead, she's faithful, diligent, industrious, generous, compassionate, kind, and wise—all virtues the book of Proverbs advises men *and* women to develop because they honor the Lord and make life work.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." —Proverbs 1:7

Knowledge, says the note in my ESV Study Bible, is a focus on correctly understanding the world and ourselves as creatures of the magnificent and loving God, and wisdom is the acquired skill of applying that knowledge rightly, or godly living.

That's what my friend the Proverbs 31 Woman is good at, and what I am learning from her.

In fact, we're having tea together right now!