

The Fellowship Room

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#208) The Proverbs of Solomon Proverbs 31:1-3- Listen to Your Mama About Women

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom ([1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10](#)) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and [Proverbs 30-31](#) were added and preserved by the Holy Spirit. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 31:1-3:

The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him: 2 What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows? 3 Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.

Verse 1: These have been the Proverbs of Solomon: for his son ([Chapters 1-9](#)); for his people ([Chapters 10-24](#)); for his legacy ([Chapters 25-29](#)); for his influence ([Chapters 30-31](#)). The Book of Proverbs began with a father instructing his son, and ends in this last chapter with the mother's wise words, or "hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother" ([Proverbs 1:8](#)).

Verse 2: Almost asking: "What can I say for the best benefit for my son, my flesh and blood?"

"Son of my womb" refers to the closeness of the mother-son bond, for she was his home before he was born.

"Son of my vows" can refer to the legitimate son born after marriage vows of his parents ([Malachi 2:14](#)), or to parental commitment to raise the child "in the training and admonition of the Lord" ([Ephesians 6:4](#)).

In any case, these words should be regarded as precious to a beloved son.

Verse 3: Two serious warnings against ways that destroy every man's life: disrespect for marriage and disregard for authority.

To not "give your strength to women" is a major theme in Proverbs ([Proverbs 2:16-22; 5:1-23; 6:20-35; 7:1-27; 9:13-18](#)). Examples of what not to do are found in Samson ([Judges 13-16](#)), David and Bathsheba ([2 Samuel 11-12](#)), and Solomon, himself ([1 Kings 11](#)). Sexual satisfaction ("strength") should be reserved only for one's own wife ([Proverbs 5:15-20](#)).

"That which destroys kings" refers to subversive and violent methods of destroying respect for civil authority, "For there is no authority except from God, and the

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authorities that exist are appointed by God" ([Romans 13:1](#)). Moses recognized this danger ([Deuteronomy 31:26-27](#)); King Saul ([1 Samuel 15:22-24](#)); Barabbas ([Mark 15:7](#)). Solomon had said:

An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him. ([Proverbs 17:11](#))

Jesus said: "all who take the sword will perish by the sword" ([Matthew 26:52](#)). It is never wrong to insist that rulers abide by God's rules (the Bible) and the laws of the land (Constitution) that restricts their "authority" (as Libertarians insist), but it is wrong to advocate no authority (as Libertines claim)!

Men, listen to a godly mother!

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