

# Proverbs 11:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.

## Analysis

---

A gracious woman retains honor, and strong men retain riches. The parallelism suggests that character (grace) brings honor just as strength brings wealth. The woman of grace (chen - favor, kindness) maintains respect and reputation. This verse values feminine virtue while acknowledging masculine strength, recognizing different contributions of men and women to society's welfare.

## Historical Context

---

Anticipates the virtuous woman portrait (ch.31). Ancient societies valued women's grace and men's strength as complementary virtues contributing to household and community flourishing.

## Related Passages

---

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. What character qualities are you cultivating that will retain honor?
2. How do you value both grace and strength appropriately in yourself and others?

## Interlinear Text

---

אִשָּׁת	יְהוָה	יִתְמָכוּ	כָּבֹד	וְעֲרִיצִים	יִתְמָכוּ	עֲשָׂר:
woman	A gracious	men retain	honour	and strong	men retain	riches
H802	H2580	H8551	H3519	H6184	H8551	H6239

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Luke 10:42** (Parallel theme): But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)