

The Role and Responsibility of the Husband – Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Ephesians tells you how to live a heavenly life in a hell-like world.

B. Divided into two major divisions.

1. Chapters 1-3: theological foundation.

a. All Christian experience is rooted in theology.

b. Never say that it is never really important what you believe; what you believe will determine how you behave.

c. A person who does not know the truth of God is prey to every untruth.

d. Doctrine is dynamic; revelation always demands a response.

e. Section deals with the believer's wealth.

2. Chapters 4-6: experiential superstructure.

a. Built on the previous section.

b. Not experimental, but experiential.

c. The believer's walk: you learn to walk by walking.

d. You learn to walk in the spiritual realm the same way you learn to walk in the physical realm—the longer you walk the more you learn how to avoid falling.

C. Section key:

1. Ephesians 5:18—be filled with the Holy Spirit.

2. There is no accident Paul uses the family as a measure of this.

3. If Christianity does not work in the home, do not export it.

4. If one can see the fruit of the Spirit in your home, there is unmistakable fruit that that person is under the fruit of the Spirit.

a. Personal example: man who said he had not sinned in twelve years.

b. It is easier to be under control of the Spirit before eight hundred people than be in a hole when the toilet flushes.

5. We must have a Christianity that is real.

6. If you want to evaluate whether you are under the control of the Holy Spirit, look at your relationships.

D. Ephesians 5:22 on is a series of relationships.

II. The husband (Ephesians 5:2-29).

A. Two-fold thrust.

1. The husband's Scriptural position.

a. Leader.

b. Lends authority to the relationship.

c. Objective responsibility.

d. Leadership without love is dictatorship.

e. Five erroneous concepts.

1) Headship is not dictatorship.

a) Example of Doctoral student failing to answer what headship was experientially.

b) Jesus Christ is not in the process of exercising an autocratic role in your experience—no husband has any kind of Scriptural support for that kind of rule in his home.

2) Headship does not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband.

a) Paul emphasizes equality in Galatians.

b) Spiritually you are equal, functionally you are different.

c) It is just as untrue to say that Jesus Christ was unequal to the Father because he submitted as it is to say that the wife is unequal to the husband (1 Corinthians 11:3).

d) Submission requires a lot of thinking—it is not merely the exclusive role of the woman. It is the call of all believers.

e) You are as free to decide whether you will be the head of your home or not, but you are not free to escape from the consequences.

3) Headship does not mean that the man makes all the decisions.

- a) There is room for discussion and delegation.
- b) Jesus as our head has delegated huge responsibilities to us.
- c) It would be foolish to try to make all the decisions in the home when the husband may have no competency in certain areas and may not be as gifted in others as the wife.
- d) Personal example of speaker making a mistake despite wife's counsel.
- e) Husbands have the say on the final decision, but wives are not accountable for those decisions. They are only accountable to submit.

4) Headship does not mean the husband is right. It means he is a steward.

- a) God will ask for an account of our stewardship in your home—no other matter of competence will satisfy this demand.
- b) God is concerned with your responsibility: how well did you take care of your family?
- c) Wives: allow your husband the luxury of mistakes.

5) Headship is never to be demanded.

- a) Keep in mind the difference of commands—woman are not commanded to love their husbands. They are responsible to do this, but they are not the initiators and are never commanded to love their husbands.
- b) The husband is never commanded to make his wife submissive.
- c) No woman in their right mind would not submit to a husband who loves her like Christ loved the church.

f. Correct concepts concerning the husband.

- 1) He is the pace setter.
- 2) He is the “savior” of his family (verse 22).
 - a) Salvation is used in a variety of ways.
 - b) Here is salvation of the body from damage.
 - c) Women also need to encourage their husbands in their roles.

2. The husband's supreme passion.

a. Lover.

b. Lends affection to the relationship.

c. Subjective responsibility.

d. Love without leadership is sentimentality.

e. The average American male is incapacitated as a lover because of the culture.

1) Love is a sign of strength.

2) Cultivate your sons to be gracious and affectionate.

f. We are not developing enough lovers among men because we are not modeling it to our children.

g. Love demands a response—an expression. To say that you love your wife is simply not enough.

1) What starts before the marriage quickly comes to a screeching halt.

2) Fall in love with your wife every day.

3) Love her not because she is lovely or lovable.

4) If you are loving your wife, you are loving yourself because you are one flesh.

h. You are to love by having the best interests of the one loved at heart.

1) Personal example of a friend that hurt the speaker in order to heal him.

2) There is no realism in love anymore.

3) Some of the most loving things are some of the hardest things.

4) In this kind of an intelligent love relationship you have the pattern of the relationship that a man should sustain with his wife.

3. One cannot have headship without love.

4. Balance is key in the Scriptures.

5. The marriage relationship is called a mystery.

a. Could a nonbeliever come into your home and see Christ modeled in the married relationship? They will if there is a leadership of love.

Application Questions:

1. Answer the speaker's question: Could a nonbeliever come into your home and see Christ modeled in the married relationship?

2. What are some of the common misconceptions about headship? What should headship look like today for the husband? How can the wife encourage this?

3. How does love differ from sentimentality? How is love exhibited in your own home? What areas could use improvement? Be specific.
