

**Title:** Biblical Marriage - Biblical Headship/Leadership (Part 2)

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:22-33

## **Introduction**

Marriage is the most foundational and valuable institution on earth.

- The first institution created by God
- Bedrock of all subsequent institutions since
  - Ex: education began in the family, hospitals/care for others began in the family.

Marriage will only go as well as it is founded on Biblical principles. (As the family goes, so goes society.)

- Likewise, marriage will only go as well as the man Biblically leads his family. (As the husband goes, so goes the family)

Pride, self-pity, fear, and confusion are barriers to Biblical leadership in the home.

## **Passages:**

Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Colossians 3:19

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

## **EXPOSITION**

God's design of marriage:

- Roles of husbands and wives are not reversible.
- Why where we are today? God's design has been distorted by sin.

Genesis 3:16 (sin's consequences)

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

- Consequence: women will thereafter naturally want to control her husband. Likewise, men will thereafter either be passive or dominantly rule harshly.

*Summary Chart* (Wayne Grudem)

Husband

- Errors of passivity: Wimp or tyrant
- Biblical ideal: Loving, humble leader
- Errors of aggressiveness : Tyrant

Wife

- Errors of passivity: Dormant
- Biblical ideal: Joyful, intelligent submission
- Errors of aggressiveness: Usurper

## **BIBLICAL HEADSHIP**

**Definition:** the divine calling of the husband to take primary responsibility for displaying Christ-like love by leading, protecting, and providing for his family.

- Source: Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (Piper and Grudem)

## **Headship**

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church

- What is it?
- Greek word ("*kephale*")
  - One of position of authority (metaphor)
  - Ex: "Head of state" = leader of the state
- Meaning: appointed person of authority and leadership who gives direction and is ultimately responsible for the family's wellbeing.

Other references:

Judges 11:11

So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah.

Ephesians 1:22

And he put all things under his feet and gave [Jesus] as head over all things to the church,

Alternative interpretation: headship means the source or origin of things.

- But this is incorrect given context and usage of the word “head” used in Ancient Greek.
- Caution: do not adjust God’s Word to our limited human experiences and perception. Rather we ought to adjust our experiences and perspective to God’s Word.

### **The divine calling**

- God’s design and calling. This all comes from God as part of His design.
  - From God, who is all good and all knowing.
  - God knows better than us in His design.
  - Rather than reject God’s design, consider embracing and asking God how He can redeem brokenness.

### **Primary responsibility**

- Headship is a sacred trust, not a right.
- Authority is to be used for family’s well being not for one’s own benefit and gain.
- Headship is more a function of controlling our nature, not our wives.
- Power to serve, not to be served. Standard of husbands is the cross of Christ.

### **in displaying Christ-like love**

What is Christ-like love?

#### **1. *Sacrificial love***

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

- Headship is about serving (and not being served). Like Jesus, headship is to lay down his life.
- Marriage is a calling to die to self, sacrificing our desires for the sake of our family.

Philippians 2:4

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Galatians 2:20a

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

- Application: Forsake what you are pursuing to instead be a Biblical husband.
  - This may require forsaking climbing the corporate ladder or additional degrees so you can be the husband God has called you to be.
- “The path to leadership is always through the cross.”

#### **2. *Sanctifying love***

Ephesians 5:26

that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

- Sanctification: process of becoming more like Christ (being cleansed to be more holy and like Jesus)

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

- How do we sanctify? Through God's Word.
  - Know and share God's Word in a way that helps others grow and be more like Jesus.
- Reflection Question: Is your wife more like Christ because she is married to you? Is she more like Jesus because of you or in spite of you?
- Application: Be responsible and concerned about your wife's spiritual growth. Build her up in God.

### 3. **Commitment**

- Commitment is first. Feelings follow from commitment.
  - You do not fall into and out of love.
- Love is action (See 1 Corinthians 13)

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

### 4. **Fidelity**

- God is love. God is faithful.

Hebrews 13:5b

[God] has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

- Likewise, husbands are to always be faithful.

### 5. **Communication**

- Husbands need to learn how to listen and talk well.

James 1:19

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;

### 6. **Appreciation**

- Husbands show appreciation on a regular basis.
- Point out specific things your wife is doing that you appreciate. Any good that she does is God working through her.

## **By leading, protecting, and providing**

Ephesians 5:28-29

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church

### ***By leading***

- Headship is leading and taking initiative.
  - Not passivity.

Ephesians 5:30-31

because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

- Husbands are to lead and take initiative.
- It is the man that is called to "leave" and "cleave"
- Take initiative. Be active. Listen. Expressing preferences.

### ***By protecting***

Colossians 3:19

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

- Headship does not take advantage of one's own strength but rather treat the wife with honor.
  - Analogy: paper plates vs. fine China plates
    - Something of higher value is to be given greater special care
    - Application: your wife is not one of your "buddies" but to be given special attention.

### ***By providing***

Ephesians 5:28-29

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

- Headship takes primary responsibility for providing for the family.
  - Not the only one but is primarily responsible
  - Not out of lack of self control or self-discipline.

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

## **ENCOURAGEMENTS**

Husbands: Be connected to God.

- A husband's love is secured and based in one's relationship with Christ.
- Christ's love is a husband's relational fuel

- Analogy: Triangle with God at the top.
  - If you want to be closer to your wife, be closer to God.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Wives: Pray and talk.

- if demanding your husband to take leadership, it is counter-productive as it takes the heart out of it. He won't feel like leading anymore but acquiescing.
- What to do then?
  - Pray earnestly for God to awaken husband's manhood from within.
  - Ask for a time when neither is tired or angry. Express appreciation for what he is doing and share sincere thoughts.

Colossians 3:14

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.