

- I. A Husband who leads
- a. Establish the Need: What does it mean that a husband is the head of the wife?
  - b. Purpose: In this session we will explore three questions concerning Biblical headship so that we would practice this biblically today.
    - i. Are there verses that teach on biblical leadership of the husband?
    - ii. What does a husband's biblical leadership look like?
    - iii. What are the applications for everyone of a husband's biblical leadership?
  - c. Biblical husband leadership defined: "Biblical headship for the husband is the divine calling to take primary responsibility for Christ-like, servant-leadership, protection and provision in the home"<sup>1</sup>
  - d. **Question 1: Are there verses that teach on biblical leadership of the husband?**
    - i. Headship verses
      1. **1 Corinthians 11:3**: "*But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.*"
        - a. In the context this is Paul speaking in a chapter that focuses on God's given role for men and women.
        - b. This passage is clear that "*the man is the head of a woman.*"
      2. **Ephesians 5:23**: "*For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.*"
        - a. In the context this is Paul speaking in a section on marriage.
        - b. This passage is clear that "*the husband is the head of the wife.*"
    - ii. Even before the fall, God's design was for marriage to have the men lead (**Genesis 2:18-23**)<sup>2</sup>
      1. Woman was made **FOR** man (**Genesis 2:18-20**)
        - a. Note also the woman is the helper of her husband.
      2. Woman was made **AFTER** man (**Genesis 2:21-22**)
        - a. Note this is the line of argument Paul uses in **1 Timothy 2:12-13** of why a woman should not lead
      3. Woman was made **FROM** man (**Genesis 2:21-22**)
      4. Woman was **BROUGHT TO** man (**Genesis 2:22**)
      5. Woman was **NAMED** by the man (**Genesis 2:23**)
    - iii. The New Testament affirm Genesis 2 applies even after the fall
      1. Remember earlier how Paul in **1 Timothy 2:12-13**.
      2. **1 Corinthians 11:8-9** appeal to **Genesis 2** for male headship.
    - iv. Also there are verses that teaches on biblical submission of wives to their husbands that reinforce the truth of a husband's biblical headship.
  - e. **Question 2: What does a husband's biblical leadership look like?**
    - i. What biblical leadership means: The husband lead out of love
      1. Recall that we saw earlier **Ephesians 5:23** taught the "*the husband is the head of the wife.*"
      2. Yet that same section goes on to describe the role this husband is to love his wife. In **Ephesians 5:25-33** which addresses the husband note the passage commands husbands to love their wives four times:
        - a. **Ephesians 5:25**: "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,*"

<sup>1</sup> John Piper, *What's the Difference?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001), 66.

<sup>2</sup> The following points comes from Voddie Bauchman Jr., *What He Must be...if He wants to Marry my Daughter* (Wheaton: Crossway 2009), 97-101.

- b. **Ephesians 5:28a**: “*So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies...*”
    - c. **Ephesians 5:28b**: “*He who loves his own wife loves himself;*”
    - d. **Ephesians 5:33a**: “*Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself...*”
  - 3. Note the extent that God wants a husband to love:
    - a. Husbands are to love their wives like Christ love: “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,*” (**Ephesians 5:25**)
      - i. Christ of course love the church very much.
      - ii. How much did Christ love the church? He “*gave Himself up for her,*”
    - b. Husbands are to love their wives like the wife is his own body: “*So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies...*” (**Ephesians 5:28a**)
    - c. Husbands are to love their wives like the wife is himself:
      - i. “*He who loves his own wife loves himself;*” (**Ephesians 5:28b**)
      - ii. “*Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself...*” (**Ephesians 5:33a**)
  - ii. What biblical headship does not mean: Being a leader for one’s own advantage
    - 1. If he loves His wife He would put her well-being before himself.
    - 2. Therefore there is no room for him being a leader to benefit his own self first.
  - iii. What biblical headship means: The husband lead to serve his wife and family
    - 1. Note Jesus teaching: “*But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.*” (**Luke 22:26**)
    - 2. We see that a great leader is to be those who are “*like the servant*”
    - 3. Godly headship is servant-leadership.
    - 4. It is a leadership mark with humility.
  - iv. What biblical leadership does not mean: Being a tyrannical leader
    - 1. Before Jesus said that a leader is to be “*like the servant*” in **Luke 22:26b** note what Jesus said before that concerning how Gentiles rule: “*And He said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’*” (**Luke 22:25**)
    - 2. After describing such tyrants Jesus gave this prohibition: “*But it is not this way with you*”
    - 3. Biblical headship is not the same thing as being a tyrant.
  - v. What biblical leadership means: Living and leading with understanding of one’s wife
    - 1. After talking about wives’ submission to their husbands in **1 Peter 3:1-6** Peter then said in **verse 7a**: “*You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman;*”
    - 2. The command is clear: “*live with your wives in an understanding way*” (**v.7a**)
    - 3. The extent of the understanding includes : “*as with someone weaker, since she is a woman*” (**v.7a**)
  - vi. What biblical leadership does not mean: You know it all
    - 1. With the call to “*live with your wives in an understanding way*” (**v.7a**) it shows we can make mistakes in our understanding or knowledge.
    - 2. To have true understanding it is something you need to regularly seek after.
  - vii. What biblical leadership means: The husband honors his wife

1. Hear what Peter said in **1 Peter 1:7b**: “*and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.*”
  2. The command is clear: “*show her honor*” (v.7b)
  3. To reinforce the importance of this command God gives an additional motivation to obey: “*so that your prayers will not be hindered*” (v.7b)
- viii. What biblical leadership does not mean: You treat your wife badly
1. Not honoring your wife is already something that doesn't please God.
  2. How much more is it wicked if one treats one's own wife badly!
- f. **Question 3: What are the applications for everyone of a husband's biblical leadership?**
- i. First everyone should realize the serious responsibility of husband as leaders and the danger of bad leadership.
    1. A man who does not want to be a strong leader according to the Bible will fail his duty to his wife and children.
    2. A man who want to be a strong leader beyond what the Bible teaches will be a tyrant.
  - ii. For those not in a relationship
    1. Men
      - a. In general, work on being a leader!
      - b. Be faithful with small things as training for the big things. Do them well!
      - c. Goal: Grow to be someone who will a discipler. That is a task for every Christian; it is a leadership responsibility.
      - d. Practical pointer: Set time aside regularly during the week to think about what you are doing, evaluating it and planning things.
    2. Women
      - a. Women internalize this as a conviction that you look for a man that will be a servant leader.
      - b. While you wait, be sure to grow and cultivate your virtues as a helper.
    3. Parents
      - a. Of daughters: Keep on reminding and teaching daughters to look for a spiritual leader!
      - b. Of sons: Are you raising your sons up to be a spiritual leader?
    4. For those courting
      - a. Men
        - i. Ask yourself: Are there areas you can work on in leading the relationship?
        - ii. Make sure you are leading not just in the relationship but also display leadership traits in other spheres of your life as well.
        - iii. (You don't want this to just be an emotional high or artificial leadership in the relationship when the person lacks leadership character in other areas)
      - b. Women
        - i. Evaluate the guy: Can he lead you? If not, it might not be someone to marry.
        - ii. Make sure you also cultivate an attitude of submission in other areas of life (parents, school, church, etc)
        - iii. (Again, you don't want this to just be an emotional high or artificial desire to be a helpmate because one wants to be in a relationship)

- c. Parents
  - i. Of the Girl: Keep it in the forefront: Is this guy responsible?
  - ii. Of the Guy: Do you see your child leading and can you help him further along?