

Family Matters 2: The Husband's Role in Marriage

- I. Introduction
 - a. Disclaimer:
 - i. I have been married 16 years – I make more than my share of mistakes as a husband and father
 - ii. I have not been trained in marital counseling nor do I have lot of experience counseling those dealing with marriage difficulties
 - b. Therefore:
 - i. I will not be sharing a lot of personal anecdotes of my experiences or those of people I have helped with marriage issues
 - ii. I will be focusing on and sharing with you what God has revealed on this subject
 1. More than likely, my remarks will be directed more toward what I need to hear as a husband than what other men in the audience may need to hear.
 2. I can tell you that, 16 years into marriage, Rachel and I love each other more than we did when we were first married. As much as we loved each other then, I, at least really wasn't capable of loving another human being as much as I do now.
 - iii. Marriage is an amazing invention! In marriage, God permanently joins two individuals who are fundamentally different in very significant ways and gives them every opportunity, motive and duty to learn to recognize, appreciate and love those differences and use them to positively impact the future into eternity
 1. # In this lesson we begin looking at the very different roles God has given the husband and wife in marriage
 - iv. I know God's plan is the best plan! That's what I want to follow in my home.
- II. # Key Statement: Man has been appointed head over his wife, he must exercise that headship as God intends, or else God will hold him responsible.
- III. A Man has been appointed Head of His Wife
 - a. # Head of the wife
 - i. # Eph 5:23 - As Christ is head of the church
 - ii. # 1 Cor 11:3 – This fits into God's entire order for headship in the universe
 1. # God the head of Christ
 2. Christ the head of man
 3. Man the head of woman
 4. Elders exercise oversight in a local congregation
 - b. # How did this come about?
 - i. # We readily recognize that submission to her husband was part of God's judgment on Eve when she sinned (Gen. 3:16)
 1. # That does not mean that she was not subject to Adam before that time– 1 Tim. 2:13-14

2. # Adam was created first, then Eve – 1 Cor. 11:8-9
 3. The woman was made for man, not the other way around
 4. Therefore the marriage relationship was originally designed with the structure of the husband having headship over the wife
 5. The fall produced the added burden of submission to a fallen, sinful husband
- c. What this does not mean
- i. # Is woman inferior to man in value or worth before God?
 1. No!
 2. # Is Jesus inferior to God because God is head of him? No
 3. # Was Jesus inferior to Mary and Joseph because he was in subjection to them? Luke 2:51 No
 4. # They are made of the same stuff (Gen. 2:19, 22-23)
 - a. The animals were made of the dust
 - b. Woman was made from man
 5. # Men and women are different in ways that complement and correspond to each other. (Luke 2:52; Gen. 2:24)
 - a. Physically
 - i. One is built for conflict, the other is built for comfort
 - ii. One can bear children, the other can beget children
 - iii. They complement each other
 - b. Mentally
 - i. One processes information linearly, the other in parallel
 - ii. One comes to a conclusion for specific reasons and is usually right
 - iii. The other often comes to a conclusion without specific reasons and is usually right
 - iv. They complement each other
 - c. Socially
 - i. One is goal-oriented in social interactions
 - ii. The other is relationship-oriented in social interactions
 - iii. The man's greatest need is respect and he tends to seek it through competition
 - iv. The woman's greatest need is love and she tends to seek it through connection
 - v. They complement each other
 - d. In General
 - i. Man can survive sudden, overwhelming physical, mental and social blows that would bring a woman to her knees

2. Give yourself for her – the Savior of her
 3. Helping her to be everything she can be
 - a. Spiritually
 4. Nourish and Cherish her
 - ii. As your own body
 1. Loving her means loving yourself
 2. As yourself
 - iii. Recognizing that her greatest needs are different from your own greatest needs
 1. Men are very good at showing respect, because they understand respect. A man of honor will die trying to l
 - iv. Whether or not the wife is fulfilling her role properly
 1. None of these commands are conditional
 2. The man is commanded to do them and is responsible to God, not to the wife for fulfilling them.
- V. Areas where the man must exercise headship
- a. Savior – Protector – rescue or save or protect from harm
 - b. Nourisher and Cherisher - Provider
 - c. In providing for the needs of his household physically, emotionally and spiritually
 - d. In protecting the household from physical, emotional and spiritual harm
 - e. Physical harm & Physical Needs
 - i. These are generally well understood
 - ii. Breadwinner
 - iii. Protector – Example: Bump in the night – Who goes to see what it was?
 - f. Emotional harm and Emotional Needs
 - i. If someone insults or demeans our wife do we put up with it?
 1. Do we do it?
 - ii. Emotional needs
 1. Closeness
 2. Openness
 3. Understanding
 4. Peacemaking
 5. Loyalty
 6. Esteem
 7. The wise, loving husband makes sure all of these areas are continually supplied so that his wife feels nourished and cherished
 - g. Spiritual harm and Spiritual needs
 - i. Spiritual Harm
 1. Is your wife being tempted to sin? Deceived by false ideas or false doctrine? Are you going to let that happen?
 2. Are you going to participate in seeking to corrupt or defile your wife spiritually?
 - ii. Spiritual needs

1. The man is the spiritual leader of the household
 2. God at the center
 3. God's laws upheld
 4. Offenses resolved with repentance, mercy and forgiveness
 5. God spoken of with respect and praise
 6. God's word needs taught, understood and applied in the home
 7. The household needs regular contact with the people of God in worship assemblies
 8. Prayed for
 9. Millions of households are physically rich and spiritually starving because husbands are not providing for their spiritual needs
- h. If the household is provided for emotionally and spiritually, it doesn't need much physically
- VI. If he doesn't, God will hold him responsible (1 Pet 3:7)
- a. As a husband, this is one of the most troubling passages in all scripture
 - b. If I do not live with my wife in an understanding way, my prayers will be hindered
 - c. Anyone who receives delegated authority must give account to the one who put him in that position
 - i. God put us in this position
 - ii. We must give an account
 - d. How many upright, God-fearing, responsible, wage-earning, college-tuition providing, church attending, Christian husbands will be judged and condemned by God for failing to exercise their headship of the home as God intended?!
- VII. Conclusion
- a. Preview: The role of the wife in marriage
 - b. Invitation