

Lesson # 4 Men's Role: Being Servant-Leaders

(Gen 1:26-30; Gen 2:18-3:24)

We have been talking about man is the head of his wife. Does God really create man as the head of his wife? Is this really the teaching of the Bible? Are men taking a few passages from the Scripture and twist them around for their benefit? Why do we, men in the 21st Century, still have to stress on this issue? How can this teaching apply in my life at my home?

1) The Creation

- Adam was created first (2:8)
- Eve was created for Adam as a companion and helper (2:18)
- Eve was created from Adam (2:21)
- Eve was presented to Adam (2:22)
- Eve was named by Adam (2:23)

2) The Fall

- Eve was doing all the talking, Adam was there being passive (3:1-5)
- God called to Adam (3:9)
- God cursed what was unique to female (3:15-16) and male (3: 17-19)
- The future struggle (3:16; cf 4:7)

3) The Restoration

- Restoring husband's headship (1 Cor. 11:3)
- Restoring the creation order (11:7-10)
- Restoring the balanced relationship between the husband and wife (11:11-12)

Four Roles of men

According to Stu Webber, "Tender Warrior", men are

- Kings---leading, providing, and maintaining order
- Warriors---protecting
- Lovers---loving and caring
- Mentors---teaching and modeling

Mistaken implications

The Bible teaches the husband is the head of the wife, the leader in his family (Eph 5:22-33).

What does it mean by being the "head" of his wife? Does it mean...

- Manipulation?
- Tyrant?
- Controlling behavior?
- Never solicit the wife's opinion?
- Don't need to respect his wife and children?
- He is always right and cannot be challenged and questioned?
- He has no one to hold accountable to?
- He is the object of being served?
- He assigns his wife and children their responsibilities according solely to his wish?
- He does whatever he likes to do?

Definition

“Being the head of the wife means that husbands are given authority and responsibilities from God to love, protect, provide, serve and lead the wife as Jesus would do for the church. Husbands are called by God to be Christlike servant-leaders at home. The kind of leadership that Christ demonstrates is always servant-leadership (John 13).”

Implications of Biblical husband’s headship

1. Serve --- It emphasizes serving, not be served (Lk. 22:26; Eph. 5:23,25; Mk 10:25)
2. Be like Christ but not be Christ --- A husband does not equal to Christ. For example, the church should worship Christ, but a wife does not worship her husband. Jesus is the Lord of the church, but a husband is not the lord of his wife. However, a husband’s love to his wife should be like Christ’s sacrificial love to the church. A husband cannot see himself equal to Christ before his wife.
3. Repent --- Since a husband is not Christ, he does make mistakes. If he even makes a make, he should repent and ask forgiveness from the Lord and his wife, or even the children, if they are involved.
4. Develop your wife --- The wife and the husband are equal before God in value, although they have different in functions (1 Cor. 12:14-26; Eph. 5:28-29). So, being a servant-leader, a husband should help his wife to develop and utilize her gifts. Being a servant-leader does not mean do everything himself (1 Pet. 3:1-7).
5. Provide --- Provide directions and financial need for the family.
6. Shoulder the burden of making decision --- The husband is the one who have to bear the burden to make the final decision. But it is better for him to first work with and understands his wife’s perspective.
7. Sacrifice --- All decisions need to make out of love for the wife. A husband should consider how to sacrifice himself because of love when he makes a decision.
8. Be held accountable --- He is accountable to God for his family. He is the person ultimately be held responsible the act of the family (Gen 3:9). So, he should always be alert.
9. Oversee Children --- Although most of the husbands work outside and have less time for the children than the wife, he should be the one who oversees the children’s education and spiritual formation, maintain discipline.
10. Stay close to God --- His leadership will be effective only if he stays close to the Lord. His leadership is derived from the Lord. The wife submits to him because of her fear to the Lord. So, he can be effective as a servant-leader only if he has a genuine and growing relationship with God.

Decision questions

- If the role of men and women becomes confused, what can possibly be the marital, child raising, cultural, social impacts?
- Do you have the same understanding on the role of a husband and his wife? Have you asked and talked to her about it? How can you discuss this subject with her?
- For you, is there any problem in living out this role assignment from God in your family? If there is, what the problem? How can you overcome it?
- How can Men of Faith help you to live out the calling of Christlike servant-leaders at home?