

# Roles of the Husband

**TGI Biblical Counseling and Discipleship Class**

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**THE GOSPEL  
INSTITUTE**

# Your Identity Reveals Position & Roles in Marriage

- God's purpose for you in marriage is revealed by His choice of your gender. Your male/female identity models the trinity as you live in oneness within His established hierarchy. Know & accept your God-given roles as defined by your identity.
- Role/Responsibility – Choosing to learn how to specifically obey the imperatives in God's word as you divide household responsibilities.

1. Since you have been predestined to be a male, you know your role is to be the head of this household.
2. “<sup>3</sup>But I [Paul] want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.” (1Cor. 11:3)
3. “<sup>8</sup>For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.  
<sup>9</sup>Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man” (1Cor. 11:8-9)

*The Curse brought a distortion of previous roles, not the introduction of new ones” Wayne Grudem*

# Mutual Responsibilities in Marriage

1. Submission to God (Ex. 20)
2. Love God and each other (Mk. 12:30-31)
3. Forgive and seek forgiveness (Eph. 4:32)
4. Communicate (Eph. 4:15,25,29)
5. Pursue oneness & interdependence – vs. ‘mutual submission’ (Gen. 2:23-25)
6. Meet spouse’s sexual interests (1 Cor. 7:1-7)
7. Develop & nurture an environment of grace, effectively modeling, training, & disciplining children to become worshippers. (Mal. 2:14-17)

**Lover**

**Learner**

**Leader**

A husband's relationship with his wife will be determined by his relationship with his Lord.

## Defining Love

“Love comes from a heart of worship and is other-focused, **selfless giving** for the eternal good of the other person”.

## Defining Love

Love **Acts** – love is a verb

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never ends. (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

## Defining Love

- 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
- 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- 27 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.
- 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
- 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,
- 30 because we are members of his body. - Ephesians 5:25-30



## The Christ-like role of Lover

- Husbands are to love **first**

We love because He first loved us. 1 Jn. 4:19

- Husbands are to love **most**.

Greater love has no man than this.... John 15:13

- Husbands are to love **sacrificially**.

Eph. 5:25. Jn 15:13

- Husbands are to love **in spite of faults**.

Rom. 5:8 ...in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

## The Christ-like role of Lover

- Husbands are to love **regardless of response** –  
Jn. 1:11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive Him.
- Husbands are to love **without bitterness** - Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. (Col. 3:19)

## A Husband is to be a Learner

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. (1 Peter 3:7 ESV)

\*Learning takes time-prioritize her

\*Learning takes effort-study your wife

(From GCC, TMS, TMC)

# Husband is commanded to learn about his wife.

- "Every husband is responsible to know his own wife well enough to apply God's principles to living with her."
- "The idea here is that a husband must live with this wife in accordance with the things he should know. He should live with her while taking into consideration information that is crucial."

(Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, 198)

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.

(1 Peter 3:7 ESV)

# ...as with a weaker vessel

Does not mean:

Spiritually

Intellectually

Does mean:

Physically

In Authority

"We are to treat our wives in the way that we would a very delicate and useful vessel. In other words, we are to esteem her as valuable and handle her carefully."

(Stuart Scott. *The Exemplary Husband*, 199)

- **since they are heirs with you of the grace of life**  
...as a fellow heir of the grace of life...
- Treat her as God's daughter.
- Sharing in the same inheritance together.

## Results of Being a Learner

1. Your wife's problems become your own problems (from GCC, TMS, TMC)
2. Your wife will grow in understanding the character of God
3. Your wife will grow in understanding what biblical love 'looks like'
4. Your prayers may not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:7



## Jesus, the Ultimate Leader/Shepherd

But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matt. 20:25-28)

## A Leader is not a Dictator

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends**, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. (Jn.15:12-15)

## A Leader is not a Dictator

1. Does not demand submission
2. Does not consider his home to be a castle
3. Does not expect to be served, but serves
4. Does not "lord over".

"Power under not Power over"

## A Leader Does not Make All the Decisions

1. You're designed to need a "Helper-suitable"
2. You don't 'see' all that needs to be considered
3. It's not your responsibility to make all the decisions
4. You don't have enough time
5. You don't have complete abilities
6. You need her input, insights, discernment, discretion
7. Your wife is God's perfect provision for you, listen to her, (together comparing thoughts with the Truths of Scripture).

# Characteristics of a Leader/shepherd

- **By example** – Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Eph. 5:1-2)

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Cor. 11:1)

- **In Humility**--Phil. 2:3 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*

*“Leadership without humility is destructive; humility without leadership is effeminate”*

## Characteristics of a Leader

- **Listening--** The servant/leader does not make all the decisions. He consults his wife, listens to her opinions respectfully, dialogs about the options-comparing them with biblical principles, discusses possible outcomes with attention given to potential effects on others, especially his wife.
- **Responding--** "The test of your servant-hood is how you respond when you are treated like one."

# Characteristics of a Leader/shepherd

- **Problem-solver** – <sup>29</sup>Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Eph. 4:29)
- **Teacher** - I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,(Acts 20:20)  
<sup>4</sup>He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup>for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? (1 Tim. 3:4–5; Matt. 28:19-20)

## A Husband is to Protect

### -- From Danger

- Ensures sound doctrines are taught in their church, home and education
- Responsible for consistency in devotions, Bible reading/study, & prayer **in the home.**
- Responsible for consistency in church & Sunday School attendance, **corporate worship.**

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Tim. 4:2)

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Heb.3:13)



## A Husband is to Protect

-- From Danger

- Protect from evil/ worldly influences in the home
- Guards finances
- Guards the calendar, is careful to protect against stress and over-commitments, foolish use of time and resources.

## Protect by Encouraging & Comforting

**Protects from discouragement** - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

- Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Eph. 4:29)
- **Protects from despair** - But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. (Cor. 14:3; see also 2 Cor. 1:3-5)

## A Husband is to be a Provider

1. Defines “provide” biblically; discerns between needs/wants vs. biblically-defined needs.
2. A “need” is something one ***must have*** in order to please God.
3. Providing a culture that grows in contentment with less while growing in generosity and practical love.

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

(1 Tim. 5:8)

Leadership of a Husband– BCTC Faith Church  
Christ is the greatest example.

Wrong View	Biblical View
Proud	Humility
No accountability	Welcomes accountability
Makes all the decisions w/o counsel	Seeks counsel before making decisions
Expects others to serve him	Serves others
Sinful communication (lies, anger...)	Biblical communication (grace, control)
Selfish focus- what's best for me?	Other focused- what's best for her?
Pleasing self	Pleasing God
Expects others to change 1st	Willing to change 1st
Weak or no spiritual leadership	Provides strong spiritual leadership

## The Role of a Father

1. Not every husband is called to be a father
2. Fathers must 1<sup>st</sup> seek to fulfill their role as husband, then seek to be godly fathers.
3. Fathers must not abdicate their parental responsibilities to their wife.
4. A large percentage of counseling requests come from wives who are discouraged, alone, and exasperated because their husbands don't lead spiritually and take initiatives with their children.

## Committed to Godly Children (Mt.28:19-20)

1. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, (Tit. 2:4)
2. Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. (Mal. 2:15a)
3. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. (Pr. 1:8)
4. <sup>7</sup>Impress them [commandments] on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deut. 6:6-9)

## Choosing and Deferring re: Tasks

- Paying bills, dealing with the finances?
- Managing household maintenance?
- Emptying waste cans, taking out the garbage?
- Mowing grass? Shoveling snow?
- Who plans menus? Cooks the meals? Does the dishes?
- Who makes the bed? Who says how it's done?
- Who drives to church?
- 2-door, 4-door, mini-van, motorcycle?

# Looking Ahead:

- Biblical Counseling and Discipleship Conference
- - Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>
  
- TGI Monday March 6<sup>th</sup>
- -The Role of the Wife by Wayne and Julie Leman