



Roles & Responsibilities of Men

Premarital Counseling Session #4

Pastor Josh Franklin

1 Peter 3:7 (TEV) - *In the same way you husbands must live with your wives with the proper understanding that they are more delicate than you. Treat them with respect, because they also will receive, together with you, God's gift of life. Do this so that nothing will interfere with your prayers.*

Imagine the Frustration...

Example #1 – a football team where no one knows his specific responsibility.

Example #2 – a business where there are no job descriptions, where everything was everybody's business.

Example #3 – imagine a war where everyone is soldiers, and no one is a general.

Example #4 – a marriage where there has never been a sorting out of responsibilities. Everyone is a "chief" and no one is an "Indian".

Adrian Rogers – "Anything with two heads is a freak, and anything with no head is dead."

REAL ONENESS CANNOT BE EXPERIENCED UNLESS THE HUSBAND AND WIFE KNOW, ACCEPT AND FULFILL THEIR VARYING BUT COMPLEMENTARY RESPONSIBILITIES.

NOTE: We should be more concerned about what God has said about our roles and responsibilities than society because of three things: 1) We are Christians. 2) We know that the God who made the man and woman is far wiser than they are. 3) We know God's commandments are not burdensome. His will for our lives is what our will for our lives would be if we had enough sense to will it. If we saw life from His perspective, we would want to live the way He has commanded us in His Word.

Passages in the Bible which speak of the man's part in marriage:

Genesis 3:17 (TEV) ¹⁷ And he said to the man, "You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat. Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse. You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you.

Ephesians 5:23-24 (TEV) ²³ For a husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the church; and Christ is himself the Savior of the church, his body. ²⁴ And so wives must submit themselves completely to their husbands just as the church submits itself to Christ.

1 Timothy 3:4-5 (TEV) ⁴ he must be able to manage his own family well and make his children obey him with all respect. ⁵ For if a man does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of the church of God?

Psalms 128:1-4, 6a (TEV) ¹ Happy are those who obey the Lord, who live by his commands. ² Your work will provide for your needs; you will be happy and prosperous. ³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in your home, and your children will be like young olive trees around your table. ⁴ A man who obeys the Lord will surely be blessed like this... ⁶ May you live to see your grandchildren!

1 Peter 3:7 (TEV) ⁷ In the same way you husbands must live with your wives with the proper understanding that they are more delicate than you. Treat them with respect, because they also will receive, together with you, God's gift of life. Do this so that nothing will interfere with your prayers.

1 Corinthians 7:3-4 (NLT) ³ The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. ⁴ The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.

Proverbs 5:15-22 (TEV) ¹⁵ Be faithful to your own wife and give your love to her alone. ¹⁶ Children that you have by other women will do you no good. ¹⁷ Your children should grow up to help you, not strangers. ¹⁸ So be happy with your wife and find your joy with the woman you married— ¹⁹ pretty and graceful as a deer. Let her charms keep you happy; let her surround you with her love. ²⁰ Son, why should you give your love to another woman? Why should you prefer the charms of another man's wife? ²¹ The Lord sees everything you do. Wherever you go, he is watching. ²² The sins of the wicked are a trap. They get caught in the net of their own sin.

Colossians 3:19 (CEV) ¹⁹ A husband must love his wife and not abuse her. [literally, be harsh]

THE HUSBAND HAS TWO PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIS WIFE: 1. Leader 2. Lover.

I. THE HUSBAND IS TO BE HIS WIFE'S LEADER (Eph. 5:23; 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; 1 Cor. 11:3)

A. Today, when we speak of leadership, the first thing that comes to mind is an idea about giving orders and being a boss.

1. But this is not the first thing that should come to mind if we are thinking biblically.
 - a. Matthew 20:20-28 gives us the Bible's concept of a leader. According to this passage, A LEADER IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A SERVANT. His concern is not for himself; his concern is not to give orders, to boss other people around, to have his own way. His concern is to meet the needs of others. Indeed, if the best interests of others are not on his heart, if he is not willing to sacrifice himself – his personal needs, wants, desires, aspirations, time, money – if the needs of others are not more important than his own, he is not qualified to lead.
 - b. John 13:1-15 gives us the same picture of what it means to be a leader. In this passage, the emblem of leadership is not a throne or a club but a big towel and a basin. In other words, a leader must have a servant's heart. And if he has a servant's heart, he will act like a servant and react like a servant when he is treated like a servant. (Note how 1 Peter 5:3 and 2 Thess. 2:5-11 illustrate the same concept.)
2. When we apply this biblical concept of leadership to the husband, we see that being the leader means that he must be the family's biggest servant.
 - a. He is to be the head of his wife EVEN AS Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 5:23).
 - b. His great model in leadership is Jesus Christ, who made Himself a servant (Phil. 2:6-8); who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45); who is head over all things for the sake of the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Whatever Jesus Christ does, He does for our sake; He does with our best interests at heart.
 - c. In similar fashion, the husband is to live for the sake of his wife, always keeping her best interests at heart. He is to be his wife's servant leader.

B. How did Jesus, the great leadership model, lead His disciples?

- 1. He spent great amounts of time with them.** 1 Peter 3:7 says for husbands to "dwell" with their wives. No husband is fulfilling his God-given responsibility to his wife who does not delight in and arrange for frequent and regular companionship with her.
- 2. He carefully taught them in a relevant way, both formally and informally.** Undoubtedly, God also expects the husband to lead and serve his wife by teaching her. (Note 1 Cor. 14:35, where the role of the husband as the wife's teacher is clearly established.)
- 3. He was a good example to them.** He did not simply tell men that they ought always to pray. He lived a life of constant prayer. He did not merely preach to men that the Scriptures should be their final authority. He lived a life which was an example of what it means to make the Scriptures the final authority. [NOTE: On the one hand,

Jesus' exemplary life was a pattern or model for His disciples to follow. On the other hand, it earned their respect and made them willing to submit to His authority and leadership. (Compare also Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 2:7-10; 1 Pet. 5:3) Even in failure, the husband should display a good example to his wife and kids how a man gets right with God, and deals with sin.

4. He made decisions and delegated responsibility (with authority) to them.

- a. Compare John 4:1-2; Mark 1:35-39; 6:7; 6:35-43; John 11:39-44; Matt. 10:1-14; 16:21-23; 21:1-2; 28:18-20, where Jesus made decisions and delegated responsibility (often with authority) to them. Though He gave specific instructions clearly, Scripture also makes it clear that He gave them room to use their own initiative and creativity. He also was sensitive to their fears, needs, questions, spiritual, emotional, and physical state. He gave them a basic structure in which to work but a large measure of freedom within that structure.
- b. Similarly, Christian husbands do not have to bear all the responsibility and do all the work in order to be a leader. It means that he will see to it that the work gets done and that everyone knows who does what.
- c. Husbands are supposed to lead, and leading involves making decisions and delegating responsibility. Any organization where only two people are involved needs someone who is final authority, or chaos and confusion will result. Fifty-fifty marriages are an impossibility. They do not work. They cannot work. In marriage, someone has to be the final decision maker. Someone has to delegate responsibility, and God has ordained that this should be the husband. Indeed, the husbands must make decisions and delegate responsibility as a servant of his wife. Her opinions, advice, desires, suggestions, requests, fears and questions should be given serious consideration. The wife is to be the husband's helper. She is to be his chief adviser, resource person, and consultant.
- d. In fact, if the wife's opinion differs from the husband's on major issues where there is no scriptural directive, I think the husband should be very careful about forcing his opinion upon his wife. Perhaps at these times, the best course of action for the husband would be to assure his wife that he respects her opinion and ask her to pray with him for a clearer understanding of what God wants them to do.
- e. At the same time, while being very sensitive to his wife, the husband must not become indecisive or fearful about making decisions and delegating responsibilities. Nor must he relinquish his decision making, delegating responsibility to his wife. At times, he may decide to allow his wife to make decisions (e.g., where they will go on vacation, what rugs or drapes or furniture they will buy), but he must never relinquish his overall decision-making responsibility. God has called him to be his wife's leader, and he cannot be her leader by being her follower.

C. Husbands, God calls you to be your wife's leader.

1. This means that you must be your wife's servant, that you must spend much time with her, that you must give her useful, scriptural, and practical instruction, that you must be a good example to her, and that you must make decisions and delegate responsibilities in your home.
2. Of the many elements involved in developing genuine oneness, none is more important than this one. Unquestionably, it is the other side of the marital coin. If genuine oneness is to be experienced, the lifestyle of the wife must be genuine biblical submission. Conversely, the lifestyle of the husband must be the kind of leadership that has just been described.

II. BUT THE BIBLE ALSO ASSERTS THAT THE HUSBAND IS TO BE HIS WIFE'S LOVER.

A. God's Command – Ephesians 5:28, 25, 33

- Love his wife as Christ loved the church.
- Love his wife as he loves himself.

1. **Normally a man uses a lot of time and gives a great deal of thought, effort, and money to take care of himself.** He is to nourish her, cherish her, protect her, satisfy her, provide for her, care for her, sacrifice for her to the same degree and extent, and in the same manner as he does himself.
2. **Scripture says to love your wife as Christ loved the church.** Who of us fully understands the love that Christ has for the church? You can't. This much we do know:

- a. It is an unconditional, or free love (Romans 5:8).
 - b. It is a volitional love. He chooses to love us (Deut. 7:7; Eph. 1:6-7)
 - c. It is an intense love (John 13:1; Eph. 5:2, 25).
 - d. It is an unending love (John 13:1; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 8:39).
 - e. It is an unselfish love (Phil. 2:6-7).
 - f. It is a purposeful love. He works for our improvement, our development, our happiness, our welfare (Eph. 5:26-27).
 - g. It is a sacrificial love (Eph. 5:2, 25; Gal. 2:20; 1 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 5:6-11; 1 Pet. 2:24).
 - h. It is a manifested love. He tells us He loves us, and He shows us He loves us. He protects us, prays for us, guards us, strengthens us, helps us, defends us, teaches us, comforts us, chastens us, equips us, empathizes with us, and provides for all our needs (John 10:1-14; 14:1-3; 13:34, 35; 15:9-10; Rom. 8:32; Phil. 4:13, 19; Heb. 4:14-16).
- 3. This then is the standard by which a husband is to judge his relationship with his wife.**
- a. No husband has ever plumbed the depths of this love.
 - b. This is still the goal, the standard.
 - c. Every husband should frequently remind himself, and examine himself on this goal.

10 SUGGESTIONS FOR A HUSBAND TO LOVE HIS WIFE

- 1) One of the simplest, yet most neglected, ways of communicating love is by way of words.
- 2) You may love your wife by providing for the satisfaction of her varying needs.
- 3) You may love your wife by protecting her.
- 4) You may express love to your wife by assisting her to fulfill chores and responsibilities.
- 5) You may express your love by sacrificing for her.
- 6) You may love her by allowing her really to share your life.
- 7) You may express your love by refusing to compare her unfavorably with other people, especially other women.
- 8) You may express your love by demonstrating to her that, apart from your relationship to Jesus Christ, she has first place in your life.
- 9) You may express your love by giving her a lot of tenderness, respect, chivalry and courtesy.
- 10) You may love her by expressing appreciation and praise generously and in large doses.

HOW HUSBANDS CAN HELP THEIR WIVES BE BETTER MOMS (from a Pastor's Wife)

1. Unity
2. Let mom be mom (with gentleness) – not a stand-in father (with authority)
3. Don't be critical (pray for her)
4. Affirmation, encouragement and support
5. Don't tie your wife unfairly to the behavior of their children (Ezekiel 18)
6. Listen, pray and don't give her pat answers. YOU HAVE NO CLUE!! Don't be the great "problem-solver".
7. Allow her regular time away from children and you!