

The Role of the Husband

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I. Introduction.

- A. We can never get away from the basic fundamentals of the Christian life, even in the basic relationships the husband has in the home.
- B. There are three basic relationships that husbands have in the home- his relationships with Christ, with his wife, and with his children.
- C. We will be focusing on the husband's relationship with his wife in three distinct areas.

II. The lordship of Jesus Christ must be preeminent for a husband.

A. Sometimes, the application of the lordship of Jesus Christ breaks down in our homes, even if we believe in it in principle.

- 1. We often feel we can "be ourselves" at home. Too often, this means we are our "old selves" at home.
- 2. We often have a double standard- one standard for the public, one standard for our homes.

B. There is a chain of command in the home. Jesus is the head of the house.

- 1. Husbands both have authority and are under authority.
 - a) The male species have no inherent authority, only that which the ultimate authority, Jesus, gives them.
 - b) Husbands will have to give account to Christ for their homes.

C. Husbands must be open to being taught and receiving advice. (Ecclesiastes 4:13)

- 1. Often, that advice will come from our wives and we need to be open to it.

III. The leadership of the husband. (Ephesians 5:21ff)

A. Husbands must assume leadership of their home.

- 1. It is impossible to follow someone who will not lead.

B. There are two fundamental things inherent in leadership.

- 1. The main task of a leader is to accept and carry responsibility. (Acts 11:25ff)
 - a) Husbands can delegate activities, but should not abdicate responsibility.

b) Women will not lose respect for a man because he does not have ability, but because he will not carry the responsibility.

2. A secondary task of a leader is to clarify and maintain the objective of his home.

a) This means that the husband needs to know from Christ what the objectives of his family are.

b) He then needs to maintain those objectives.

IV. The love of the husband for the wife. (Ephesians 5:25ff, 28)

A. Husbands are commanded to love their wives. It is not optional.

B. Love is that which seeks the higher good of the other person.

1. Love is a behavior, not an emotion.

2. Love is an act of the will, so there is no excuse for not loving the wife.

3. This definition of love requires that the husband consider what would be best for his wife in the decisions that he makes.

4. The husband is responsible for initiating the love relationship and keeping love going in the home.

a) In part, this means that they don't take their wives for granted or stop being courteous to her.

b) This means that they do pay attention to her and appreciate her. Loving emotions will often follow loving actions.

5. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church.

a) The church is imperfect, but Christ loves her anyway.

b) Christ loved the church sacrificially. Husbands must give themselves, not just things.

c) Christ deals tenderly with the church. Husbands should do the same and should not use their wives as the butt of their jokes or tease her in front of others.

Application questions:

1. What does Jerry mean when he says that we are often our “old selves” at home? Do you find this to be a temptation for you? How could Jesus being Lord of your life look in the context of your home and family?

2. How does a husband accepting and carrying the responsibility for his family play out in everyday situations?

3. What are some practical ways that husbands can foster a loving relationship with his wife?
