

Leadership in the Home

Lesson designed by: Larry White, adapted by Bob Turner

Course description: Husbands Part 1

This course continues to explore the importance of leadership in the home. In our lesson today, we focus on the role of the Christian husband. The relationship between the husband and wife in the Bible compares to the relationship between Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:21-33). The responsibility of the husband is not only important, it requires effort in order to achieve success.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Prescribed a list of at least five responsibilities of the husband based on biblical text.
- B. Described what these responsibilities mean and an example of what it looks like in their home.
- C. Considered three principles described in Genesis for the husband.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 and ask each group to read the following passages and list the responsibilities they find for the role of the husband in the home (Ephesians 5:21-33 and 1 Peter 3:7). In addition to making this list, ask each group to write in their own words what these responsibilities mean and give an example of what it looks like in the home. This task should take between 10-15 minutes.
- B. Once completed, ask each group to share one of the responsibilities they found and write them on the whiteboard for discussion. Ask them to share what each responsibility means and share the example of what it looks like in the home. A few possibilities are below, if they are needed for the class:
 - 1. Head of the wife – leader, protector, provider, comforter
 - 2. Love his wife as Christ loved the church – sacrificial, supportive, her needs above his own, ensure that whatever it takes for her to be saved he will do (Three times in the text of Ephesians the husband is told to love his wife. Notice how it is used each time vv. 25, 28, 33). If Jesus was willing to give His life to save the church, and we are to love our wives as He loved the church, then doesn't it make sense that we must make whatever sacrifice is needed to save her?
 - 3. Nourish his wife – keep her alive in his mind
 - 4. Cherish his wife – place value upon her
 - 5. Be joined to his wife – unity, harmony
 - 6. Live with his wife in an understanding way – know and meet her needs (physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually)

7. Remember, we are responsible to fulfill these areas regardless of how the wife reacts to us. If she does not fulfill her responsibilities, we still must fulfill ours. There is not “exception” clause.
- C. Here are a few basic principles that Christian husbands need to remember.
1. Recognize the need for our wives (Genesis 1:31; 2:18-23).
 2. We are to leave our father and mother (Genesis 2:24).
 - a. This is essential to achieve unity with his wife (Matthew 19:5). The two become one flesh.
 - b. This does not mean one can leave (1 Timothy 5:8).
 3. We must be joined to our wives (Genesis 2:24)
 - a. It is a permanent bond (Matthew 19:3-12)
 - b. The connection is based on an agreement and understanding. It is a contract that is never to be violated (Malachi 2:14-16; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Deuteronomy 7:2-16)
 - c. It is a complete union. It is far more than living in the same house, sleeping in the same bed, and carrying the same name. It is the union of their lives in every area and in every way.

Conclusion:

- A. Husbands face tremendous responsibility when it comes to the role God designed for them in the home. This lesson focused on a few of those responsibilities as they are discussed in Ephesians and 1 Peter.
- B. Additionally, the Bible identifies several principles related to the role of the husband.
- C. Next week’s lesson continues to discuss areas related to the role of the husband in the home.