

## **Leadership in the Home**

Lesson designed by: Larry White, adapted by Bob Turner

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### **Course description: Husbands Part 2**

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. Listed three areas that identify what it does not mean to be the head of the house.
- B. Listed five practical suggestions related to how one fulfills this role.
- C. Discussed at least five ways the head of the house (husband) shows honor to his wife.

### **Outline of the class:**

- A. Take a few minutes to review the responsibilities and principles that were discussed in the previous lesson. Point to the specifics found in scripture that provide a foundation for men to understand about their role as husbands in the home.
- B. Keep the class divided into groups of 3 or 4 and ask each group to make a list of three areas describing what it does not mean for one to be the “head” of the house and five practical suggestions related to how one fulfills this role. Spend about 10-15 minutes.
- C. Once completed, ask each group to share their thoughts while making a list of both categories on the whiteboard. A few suggestions to aid the discussion include the following:
  - 1. Being the head does not mean...
    - a. One is the dictator of the family.
    - b. One must make all the decisions without consulting his wife and/or children.
    - c. One never delegates certain responsibilities to other family members.
    - d. Respect for the head is demanded and expected.
  - 2. Practical suggestions for fulfilling this role...
    - a. Always consider the wishes and opinions of the wife.
    - b. Take into account the wishes and opinions of children (if there are children and of a mature age).
    - c. Never make decisions based on anger or selfishness.

- d. Ask for much wisdom from God in all decisions.
  - e. Once decisions are made, family members are not to be blamed. The head of the house is responsible for all decisions, even if it is in accordance with the wishes and opinion of the wife and/or children.
  - f. Always strive to be fair and reasonable.
  - g. It is better to explain and persuade, than to demand.
  - h. The unity of the family is the responsibility of the head. Do not cause the isolation of a family member.
- D. Ask for the class to share their thoughts on how to honor one's wife (1 Peter 3:7) since he is in a position of authority in the home. Some possible suggestions to add to the discussion are below.
- 1. Remove the feature of "macho" (male pride) that often characterizes us.
  - 2. Follow the example of Christ who gave a place of honor to women.
  - 3. Our attitude must be reflected in the way we speak to and treat her in front of the children.
  - 4. Remember she is a weaker vessel.
  - 5. With Christ, there is no distinction between men and women regarding salvation. She is a "fellow heir of the grace of life" with the husband.
  - 6. The one who abused his position as head of the woman is hindered in communicating with God in prayer.
  - 7. We have a duty and responsibility to honor her regardless of her attitude toward us.

Conclusion:

- A. The role of the husband as head of the house involves an understanding of what we must not do, but it also requires us to think about how we practically fulfill this great responsibility.
- B. When we fulfill this role, we honor God, but we also honor our wives as God intended, since she is a fellow heir of life.
- C. Next week's lesson continues to discuss areas related to the role of the husband in the home.