

Leadership in the Home

Lesson designed by: Larry White, adapted by Bob Turner

Course description: Husbands Part 3

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. Reviewed the vital nature of last week's lesson on being the head of the family.
- B. Discussed three ways the husband provides for his wife.
- C. Listed a minimum of five ways the head of the house fulfills the role of a spiritual leader.

Outline of the class:

- A. Take a few minutes to review last week's material on the discussion of what it does not mean to be the head of the home and the practical suggestions for how we can fulfill this role. Also, touch on the ways we show honor to our wives as a fellow heir of life.
- B. The husband, as head of the home, carries the responsibility of providing for the needs of his family (physically, emotionally, and spiritually). The discussion below provides a list of ways this is done.
 - 1. "Study" with his wife and communicate with her to know the following areas:
 - a. What needs does she see in herself?
 - b. What makes her happy/sad?
 - c. What irritates her?
 - d. What makes her nervous or anxious?
 - e. What helps her relax?
 - f. What does she consider to be a crisis and how does she respond?
 - g. How does she respond when sick, when the children are sick?
 - h. How does she view her work load in the home? How does that align with the husband view of her work?
 - i. She needs the help of her husband and her demands are not impossible. We need to be reasonable and considerate.

- ii. She needs the companionship of her husband. Therefore, communication and intimacy are needed so she does not feel alone or isolated.
 - i. Learn what she thinks of herself: Many women suffer from a low self-esteem, mainly due to three thoughts used to evaluate themselves.
 - i. They believe their role as a wife is unimportant and does not hold much value.
 - ii. They believe they are not attractive physically.
 - iii. They believe they have less intelligence than others.
 - iv. The most important opinion for a woman with respect to her importance, beauty, and intelligence, must come from her husband. She needs to know her husband supports her and provides her with a positive self-esteem.
- 2. Every wife needs the following:
 - a. Tenderness instead of cruelty. There is never a justifiable cause to treat her lousy. The relationship with our wives is negatively affected if we do not take into account their feelings and that her feelings are more fragile than those of men.
 - b. The gratitude of her husband. We must acknowledge and thank her for all her efforts to please her husband. Learn to be specific about the areas she works hard to provide for his needs.
 - c. Personal dignity.
 - i. She should never be compared to other women unfavorably.
 - ii. We should always consider her views and give due importance to what she says.
- C. Keep the class divided into groups of 3 or 4 and ask each group to provide a list of at least five ways that describes how the head of the house fulfills his role as a spiritual leader within his family. Give the groups about 10-15 minutes.
- D. Once completed, ask each group to share two areas from their list. Go around to each group until the lists have been shared. Make a list of the responses on the whiteboard for further discussion as needed. A few suggestions to add if they are not included by the groups.
 - 1. He must instruct the family in God's word. There is nothing more important than the spiritual bread that provides the wisdom for how to live. The head of the house must begin here.

2. He must conduct himself with spiritual maturity, filled with an understanding of God's word to be a spiritual guide for his family.
3. He must demonstrate a passion for lost souls. If his family is to ever see the necessity of helping others come to know Christ, he must lead the way.
4. He must set an example in the following areas:
 - a. Prayer: He must be a man of prayer. His wife and children must see him involved in prayer, hear him pray for them, and rely on that relationship with God to express every need in his life.
 - b. Study: He listens to what God has to say. He relies on God's word to provide the guidance necessary for his life as a husband, father, coworker, friend, and Christian. He is a good student of God's word.
 - c. Love: He must show his family what it means to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. He must demonstrate a love for the church, never allowing his children to hear him speak ill of or against Christ's bride, including her leadership.
 - d. Stewardship: He must demonstrate the life of a good steward, careful with the blessings God provides.
 - e. Speech: Whether in the assembly, on the job, in the community, or at home, his words are consistent. He is a man of his word. His language does not portray a relationship with the world, but one that aligns with a man of God.
 - f. Morality: He lives a life of purity and godliness. His ethical standard is one that flows from an understanding of scripture to treat others the way you want to be treated, and you treat them that way first.
 - g. Faithful attendance: He understands the value and necessity of assembling when the saints gather. He uses this time to encourage and be encouraged, as well as, focus on his worship of God.
 - h. Activity: He must be involved in the activities of the church and help his family see the value of this fellowship and opportunity to build up and encourage fellow Christians.

Conclusion:

- A. The role of the husband as head of the house as a spiritual leader is foundational to the future relationship of his family to God. This responsibility takes priority to others when it comes to the salvation of his family.
- B. When leadership begins in the home this way, the head of the house takes steps to prepare himself for leadership within the church, which is discussed in other lessons.

C. Next week's lesson continues to discuss areas related to the role of the husband in the home.