

Leadership in the Home

Lesson designed by: Larry White, adapted by Bob Turner

Course description: Wives 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 wife. The relationship between the husband and wife in the Bible compares to the relationship between Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:21-33). We may not always think in terms of leadership when we look at the role of the wife in the home. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Her role provides incredible influence on her husband and their children.

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

- A. Reviewed the five responsibilities of the wife in the home.
- B. Described five ways the wife can lead in the home by setting the example of Christ.
- C. Discussed how these ways assist the husband fulfill his role in the home.

Outline of the class:

- A. Spend five minutes at the beginning of the class period to discuss the responsibilities of the wife, as studied in last week's class.
- B. Keep the class into groups of 3 or 4 and ask each group to describe five ways the wife can establish an example of Christ in the home. Additionally, once they complete their list, how can these areas assist the husband fulfill his role as the head of the household.
- C. After each group completes the task, ask each group to share one or two from their list until each group has shared all they accumulated. Make sure to keep a list on the board of these areas for further discussion. A few possibilities to add to the discussion if not suggested by the class are below.
 - 1. Her conduct (1 Peter 3:1-2)
 - a. Her husband observes her conduct.
 - b. She is chaste – pure
 - c. She is respectful to her husband and to God
 - d. She is a powerful example of righteousness
 - 2. Her attire (1 Peter 3:3-4)
 - a. She is more concerned with the internal than the external appearance.
 - b. She subjects herself to her husband's will.

- c. She possesses the imperishable qualities of a quiet and gentle spirit (humble).
- 3. Her activity in the home (1 Peter 3:6)
 - a. She does good.
 - b. Her faith does not fear any threat.
 - c. Her evangelistic work toward her husband is done without a word (3:1)
- 4. Her approach to the word of God (Titus 2:3-5)
 - a. She loves her husband and demonstrates it through word and deed.
 - b. Her love for her children is demonstrated the same way.
 - c. She is wise, chaste, good and lives in submission to God first and then her husband.
- 5. Her virtue (ask the class to open their Bibles to Proverbs 31:10-31)
 - a. Notice God's attitude toward her (v. 10). This thought places her value beyond any material possession that her husband could obtain.
 - b. Notice her husband's attitude toward her:
 - i. Confident (v. 11)
 - ii. Beneficial (vv. 11-13) She never does anything that might dishonor her husband. In contrast, he is honored because of her character and conduct (v. 23).
 - iii. Praised (vv. 28-29) Her children admire and praise her.
 - c. Her attitude towards her work (vv. 13-19)
 - i. She is diligent (vv. 13-15, 18-19)
 - ii. She does so with full commitment (v. 13)
 - iii. She is wise (v. 16)
 - d. Her attitude toward God: reverent and respectful (v. 30)
 - e. Her qualities
 - i. She is compassionate for the needed (v. 20).
 - ii. She is not anxious for her family (vv. 21).
 - iii. She is strong and possess honorable character with vision (v. 25).

- iv. She speaks with wisdom and mercy (v. 26).
- v. She meditates on the road that carries her family and does not remain idle (v. 27).

D. Now look back over the list of how these ways can assist her husband in fulfilling his role as head of the house.

- 1. When God is the priority of her life, she lives His word through her words and actions, and she willingly yields her will to the will of her husband, how will this benefit him in his role?
- 2. Imagine your life as a husband to the virtuous woman described in Proverbs 31. How would a wife that follows this pattern benefit her husband?
- 3. How can we, as husbands, help the wife achieve the description of Proverbs 31?

Conclusion:

- A. While we will look further into areas that relate to the role of the wife in the home, the ideas discussed today are a helpful reminder to the leadership influence the wife possesses.
- B. One can influence others and provide leadership without usurping the role and responsibilities of others, especially when the other(s) fill the responsibilities designated to them by God.
- C. Next week's lesson continues to discuss areas related to the role of the wife in the home.