

THE ROLE OF MAN AS THE HUSBAND (Ephesians 5:25)

I. His role is to leave father and mother (Genesis 2:24).

- A. Why did God inspire Moses to write this and cause Jesus to reiterate this idea?
- B. God wanted us to understand the oneness of the marriage relationship.
 - 1. A new home is created by marriage and the ones who create the home, man and woman, are to be one.
 - 2. They are to be one spiritually, physically, emotionally.
- C. It also shows us a level of maturity needs to be met before one enters marriage.
 - 1. The male in the marriage relationship needs to be a man and the female needs to be a woman.
 - 2. There does not need to be dependence on the parents of the two entering the relationship.
 - 3. Each is to be mature enough to be able to survive without leaning on mom and dad.
- D. This by no means indicates that parents are to be ignored and have nothing to do with their offspring who have married.
 - 1. It does mean that parents need to understand the new home that has been made is not theirs.
 - 2. Should advice be asked then help the couple by sharing your wisdom.
 - 3. However, the advice should be asked for and not shoved upon.
- E. The husband is to be mature.

II. His role is to love his wife (Ephesians 5:25).

- A. This verse tells us the husband is to love his wife, not someone else's, but only his.
- B. This word love indicates sacrificial love.
- C. This is seen by the type love Jesus had for the church.
 - 1. Our Lord gave Himself for the church.
 - 2. He sacrificed Himself for His bride.
- D. Our wives are to be viewed as the most important person in our lives, above children and other family members.
- E. We are to honor our wives (1 Peter 3:7).
 - 1. To honor carries the idea of dignity, which means to exalt, hold in high regard.
 - 2. We are to esteem our wives.
 - 3. If we don't, our spiritual life is hindered.
- F. Our wives are a gift from God (Genesis 3:12).
 - 1. Do we treat them as such?
 - 2. When Adam and Abraham failed to honor their wives, God reproved them for it (Genesis 3:12f; 12:11-19).
- G. Honor for a wife from her husband comes from the mind of a man who respects God's word and God's teaching about the value of the wife.

- H. The way for a husband to love his wife is to give himself to her, not things, but himself.
 - 1. One theologian wrote that loving the wife means treat her as lovely.
 - 2. Do the things for her that she considers to be loving.
- I. Husbands are to sacrifice for the wives.

III. His role is learn about his wife (1 Peter 3:7).

- A. Peter was inspired to write that husbands were to dwell with their wives according to knowledge.
- B. The only way to obtain knowledge is to learn.
- C. We must learn about our wives.
 - 1. What is important to her?
 - 2. What are the things that bring her happiness?
 - 3. What are the needs she has that must be met for her to be happy?
- D. This is something that takes time and effort.
- E. In Willard Harley's book, "His Needs, Her Needs," Mr. Harley gives five greatest needs of both sexes.
 - 1. For the wife, they are:
 - a. Affection;
 - b. Communication;
 - c. Ability to trust;
 - d. Financial support;
 - e. Family commitment.
 - 2. Men share these needs as well but they are not the top five for men, which we will notice next week.
- F. Husbands can be so caught up in seeing that their needs are met that the needs of wives are neglected.
- G. We can't be selfish in marriage if we want our marriages to last and/or be great.
- H. We need to strive to learn everything about our wives.
- I. If a need is neglected in our spouses, they will seek something to fill the place of that need.
- J. If a husband doesn't take these needs seriously, she might find someone else who will.

IV. His role is to lead his wife (Ephesians 5:23).

- A. The husband is to be the leader of the home.
- B. He is the head of the wife and the home.
- C. There can be nothing but chaos in any social structure if there is not a head or a leader.
 - 1. Ants have a head.
 - 2. Bees have a head.
 - 3. Corporations have a head.
 - 4. Governments have a head.
 - 5. The Lord's church has a head.
- D. It is the God-given role that the husband is to be the leader or head of the home.
- E. It is the husband who will answer for his home on the judgment day.

1. He will have to give account of his headship.
 2. He will bear blame if the home was not as God would have it if he was neglectful in his duty.
- F. He is to have authority in the spiritual and moral development of the home.
- G. Just as the church is under the authority of Christ, the wife is under the authority of the husband.
- H. If there is a matter that needs deciding then his decision is the one that is authoritative.
1. He is not to rule as a tyrant, but in love.
 2. His decisions are to be based on his love for her and what he has learned about her.
 3. This is what Peter tells us in 1 Peter 3:7.
- I. Any other arrangement is unscriptural.