

TITLE: MEN AND WOMEN'S ROLES IN THE HOME

Message #9

Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

“WHERE ART THOU?” – WHERE ARE THE MEN?

- **Genesis 3:9, And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art thou*?**
- God first sought out Adam after he and Eve had sinned. The “thou” is in the singular. Although Eve had sinned first, God does not seek her out first. Adam must first give the first account to God for the moral life of the family. She certainly bears responsibility for her sin, but man bears a unique and primary one.

WHAT SHOULD THE WIFE DO?

- 1) When the man does not provide spiritual leadership for the home?
- 2) When the man does not physically provide for the home?
- 3) When the man does not protect the family from sin and wrong influences?

I. THE HUSBAND IS TO LEAD IN HOLINESS

- **Ephesians 5:26, That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**
- The man does not demand to be served, but has the strength to serve and to sacrifice for the good of the women (Luke 22:26).
- Leadership moves things forward to a goal. The goal is Christlikeness.
- We are to lead our family in holiness.
- We are not preparing a bride for ourselves, but for another!

HOW TO LEAD IN HOLINESS

- By establishing our own devotional life.
- By God's grace be holy, be the example.
- By removing any negative influences in our homes and lives.
- By establishing a consistent time of family worship.
- By making church attendance a priority.
- By being involved in ministry.

LEADERS ARE TO MOBILIZE THE STRENGTHS OF OTHERS

- The male leader must not think that he is superior to those he leads. He must take into account the ideas of those he leads, and adopt those ideas which are better than his own.
- Christ does not want us to produce a wife or a person who is personally mature, spiritually weak, and insecure because of our excessive control or picky supervision or oppressive domination. The Lord wants a mature, strong, intelligent, secure bride.

THE HUSBAND PROVIDES THE PATTERN OF INITIATIVE

- The male does not have to initiate every action, but he should feel the responsibility to provide a general pattern of initiative.
- He does not have to do all the thinking and planning all the time (Song of Solomon 7).
- It would be less than biblical for the wife in general to take the initiative in spiritual things (i.e. prayer before meals, decisions on church attendance, family devotions, etc.).
- The husband must take the active lead. He cannot be passive. He must be a spiritually self-starter.

II. THE HUSBAND IS TO LEAD IN THE DECISION-MAKING

- Ultimately the man is responsible for the decisions of his home.
- The wise husband will seek the input from the wife in the decision-making process and ideally they will come to a unified, biblical decision.
- He seeks her input because of the love that governs the relationship (Ephesians 5:25) and because of the equality of male and female (Genesis 1:27).
- The husband should be willing to surrender/sacrifice his own preference for his wife's when there is no moral issue at stake.
- Typically, unilateral decisions are not the mark of a good leader.
- The husband has the prerogative to “veto” his wife's wishes, but this should be the exception, not the norm.
- The other pitfall is to be too dependent on what everyone says which can result in being indecisive.

THE HUSBAND IS TO LEAD IN THE FINANCES

- Developing a budget as a couple.
- Implementing and maintaining the budget.
- Guidelines for expenditures.
- Financial reporting and accountability.
- Monthly meetings.

III. THE HUSBAND IS TO LEAD IN THEIR ONE-FLESH RELATIONSHIP

- Song of Solomon 4 he initiates the one-flesh relationship.
- The women may initiate (Song of Solomon 7), but generally, it is the husband who initiates.
- The man is sensitive to her needs and her biological clock.
- The man will seek to meet her physical needs.
- The first marital problem stated in the marriage of Solomon and the Shulamite related to her lack of response to his advances (Song of Solomon 5).

IV. THE HUSBAND IS TO LEAD IN THE DISCIPLINE OF HIS CHILDREN

- The general pattern should be that he leads in the discipline of the children when he is present.
- This will teach the children much about Biblical Manhood.
- When he is absent, she needs to discipline the children, but he needs to come behind her actions.

V. THE HUSBAND IS TO LEAD IN PUBLIC

- Who speaks for the couple at the restaurant?
- Who seats the other?
- Who drives the car?
- Who opens the door?
- Who goes down the aisle first at a wedding, or concert hall with the usher?

- The male needs to take the leadership in public to demonstrate his love for his bride (Song of Solomon 2:4).

THE HUSBAND IS TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY

- **Genesis 3:23, Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.**
- **1 Timothy 5:8, But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.**

THE HUSBAND IS TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY

- **Song of Solomon 3:6, Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?**
- **Song of Solomon 3:7, Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel.**
- **Song of Solomon 3:8, They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night.**