

Man, God's Deputy as Head of the Home

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Joshua 24:15; 1 Corinthians 11:7; Ephesians 5:23

God's inspired Word tells us that the man "is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man."

A man is like God in a sense that a woman is not like God. For example, God is masculine. God is always, in the Bible, called "He" never "Her". He is called "Father" not "Mother". Christ is called "the Man Christ Jesus" not "the woman". He is called "Bridegroom" not "bride", "King" not "queen", "Prophet" not "prophetess", "Son" not "daughter". Christ was a Man, a masculine Man. His body was a man's body. His work was a man's work. His temptations, a man's temptations.

I do not mean that Christ is not the Saviour every woman needs, nor that He does not know her every longing, feel her every sorrow, meet her every need. But God would not have had the Bible so full of it if He did not want us to notice that Christ was a Man, not a woman, and that man is therefore made in the image of God in a sense that cannot be true of a woman.

So, in the home, man is the deputy of God, and should lead the home for God.

The Man's Duties and Responsibilities

Every man should realise that God has laid on him duties and responsibilities that women are not fitted to carry, and not ordinarily required to carry. God commanded the man, Adam, not to eat of the forbidden fruit, before the woman was ever made (Genesis. 2:17). Adam named all the animals also before Eve was created (Genesis. 2:19-20).

When the two had sinned, it was Adam God sought and first reproached, though the woman had first sinned. It was to Adam that God said "cursed is the ground for thy sake; ... In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." It is not that that woman was not as guilty, nor also under the curse, for she was. But man clearly is held accountable for his wife, and is to earn bread for his wife.

In the home God intends men to lead.

In the Home Relationship the Man Is the Image of God

God intended each man to be the high priest in the home, to be God's chief representative there, to rule the home for God.

A father to his children is the image of God the Father dealing with Christians. A husband in the home is to be to his wife as Christ is to the church. A husband is like Christ:

**"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church:
and he is the saviour of the body" (Ephesians 5:22-23).**

Every wife is to be subject to her husband as if he were the Lord Jesus. Christ is the head of His mystical body, the church, and is the Saviour of that body. So the husband is the head of the wife, the Scripture says, and "he is the saviour of the body".

The husband and wife are, in God's sight "one flesh" (Matt. 19:5). The husband is the provider, the protector, the deliverer of his wife's body. Every man who marries takes the care of his wife as a sacred trust. Her body belongs to him, and he is the saviour, protector of her body.

How seriously every man ought to take marriage, since it means to his wife he is to be an image of Christ. She is to be subject to him "as unto the Lord". It is a serious business to be a man. God expects great things of a man since he is made in the image and glory of God.

Man Is to Rule in the Home

God said to Eve after sin had come into the world, "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee". And in Ephesians, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church".

This does not mean slavery for the wife. Rule, government, authority, is of God. The only alternative to government and authority is anarchy and chaos. We need law, order and government in our nation, in our schools, and in our churches, and so too in our homes; the husband is to be the head of the home, he is to be the head of his wife, and he is to rule over his wife.

When any man marries, he should be ready to assume the holy responsibility, the labour, the obligations for the physical, moral and spiritual welfare of his home.

Men to be Examples of Moral Purity and Spiritual Devotion

Men, by nature, are more aggressive and less bound by convention. Women, by nature, are more anxious to please society, are more easily led, whether for right or wrong, than men. Both are fallen, sinful creatures. God intends men to set the pattern for the family. Husbands should be examples to their wives and to their children. Any man who sets one standard for his wife and children and another for himself is a hypocrite. His family may love him, but they will not thoroughly respect him, because he preaches what he does not practice.

In matters of religion it is clearly intended that men should take the lead for their families. Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Man's Responsibility to God

The responsibility that goes with man's position in the home is appalling. It is enough to scare any man when he realises what God expects of him. In every home which is not a Bible kind of home the husband should be blamed first of all. He is accountable before God! If the home is not a success the husband and father is primarily and first of all responsible.

After the fall in the Garden of Eden, God made man responsible for the providing of food for his family. It was to Adam, not to Eve that God spoke in Genesis 3:17-19.

The wife and children should be all the help they can in earning daily bread and in the duties and labour of the home, as was the good woman of proverbs 31:10-31. Yet God expects man to take on his broad shoulders the principle care of providing for his own. That applies even to the widows of the family as you see in 1 Timothy 5:4,8.

Man Should Lead in Religious Matters

The husband and father should be the high priest of the home. That is clear from one end of the Bible to the other. When God came to the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day after man's sin, he called, "Adam, Adam, where art thou?" The Lord properly held man accountable, though the woman took the lead in the sin.

In Numbers chapter 30, the Lord clearly teaches that even a woman's duty to God is controlled by her father or her husband. The father, or husband if she is married, has a right to set aside any vow of a woman to God or to establish it. Then the husband, not the wife, is accountable for any sin in the matter.

In 1 Peter 3:12 the Lord commands a wife to submit even to her unsaved husband, and in Ephesians 5:22,24 wives are commanded to submit and to be subject to their own husbands "as unto the Lord" and "in everything." Certainly that would include many religious matters. The Scripture plainly says that women even in the churches are commanded to be under obedience to their husbands and to ask their husbands about religious matters at home (1 Corinthians 14:34-35).

God has plainly commanded men to lead in matters of religion. A man is responsible for his family whether he wants it or not.

Joshua

Joshua spoke for himself, "I will serve the Lord",
For his wife he said, "She will serve the Lord",
For his children he said, "They will serve the Lord",
For his servants he said, "They will serve the Lord",
If there were grandchildren living under his roof he said, "They will serve the Lord".

Joshua said in effect: "You heads of families choose for yourselves and your families, and I will choose for all of mine. I will serve the Lord, and I will see that my family serves the Lord."

This is what God requires of the head of a family.

Abraham

Abraham commanded his children and his household after him so that they kept the way of the Lord. And for that, God blessed him and told him what was in His heart.

God Wants Strong Men, Not Weaklings, for Heads of Families

How much God expects of the head of a family! He is to be like God in his home, verily a high priest and a prophet of God. Only God can make a man what he must be to be a good husband and father. Seek His help today and every day, if that position is yours.

"Husbands, Love Your Wives"

God's standards are high. In the same Scripture where He commanded women to be subject to their husbands in everything, He commanded husbands to love their wives, even as Christ loved the church!

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25)

"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself" (Ephesians 5:28)

"let every one of you in particular so love His wife even as himself" (Ephesians 5:33)

"...and be not bitter against them" (Colossians 3:19)

In 1 Peter 3:7 the husband is exhorted to treat his wife with that kindness and honour that Christians should show to weaker ones:

**“giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel,
and as being heirs together of the grace of life;
that your prayers be not hindered”**

Husband, your wife is a part of yourself. You should love her as you love your own body. Love her with the unselfish compassion that Christ has for His church. That standard is so high that it should make every man very humble as he tries to be a good husband. If the man is stronger, he should be better. If the man has more authority, he should have more responsibility. As the salvation of a sinner depend on Christ, not on us, so the Lord places more heavily on man the responsibility for a happy home.

Men Can Prevent Broken Homes

The man is to “cleave to his wife”. Husbands should have a pure and tender love for their wives; a love that passes over the wife’s weaknesses without bitterness.

Husbands should love their wives as special gifts from God, helpmeets to make them happy, for “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord” (Proverbs 19:14).

When a husband loves his wife even as himself., and as Christ loved the church, is not bitter against her and gives her honour as the weaker vessel, and leaving father and mother cleaves unto his wife, that home will very rarely be broken.

