

A HUSBAND'S STRENGTH Headship

A Word about the **Implication** of Scriptural Teaching.

1. Scripture does not assume that because one is a Christian he is automatically right about everything.
 - a. **Being correct isn't affirmed** by your zeal, sincerity, prayerfulness, feelings, or religiosity.
 - b. The Holy Spirit is NOT a **stamp of approval** that your gut feelings, your impressions, or some sense of peace or uneasiness are correct.
 - c. Why do I say this? Because **Scripture requires that we think, examine and carefully consider it's truth** and the application of that truth, and we DO NOT assume that we have been doing it correctly even if it's been 20 or 30 years.

2. As Scripture **compels** us to think, and examine our lives, as we gain **new understanding**, or corrected understanding, it puts us face to face with **new problems** we've never had to face before. We see problems in ways we've never seen before. Simply, as Scripture compels us to think, we are **confronted by new problems**.
 - a. In **many early churches**, a husband or wife would be saved, and then they would overturn the cultural understanding of order or roles in the home, thinking that as Christians there is equality to all persons. And often God was blasphemed for the chaos that the new convert created.
 - b. We must carefully understand what God **does and does not command** us in our new lives in Christ.

3. Scripture **governs the whole of our lives**. We have no compartments it does not speak to in life. Scripture teaches us how Christianity affects every aspect. We don't have a Sunday morning compartment, a Monday morning compartment, a work compartment, a leisure compartment, etc. God is concerned about all of it.
 - a. Christianity reaches into **all of our human relationships**, even down to how we treat those who persecute us.

4. Scripture **never gives us rules and commands without giving arguments** for those commands. If Christian teaching just gives us lists of rules and regulations, then it treats us like children. "I don't have to give you an answer."
 - a. God in his grace gives us answers and motivations. We can always know why we have to do certain things, or follow certain guidelines, and **be happy about them**. If we are **just robotically following certain commands then it will become bitter**. That is not Christianity.
 - b. The Christian is a man and a woman **who sees clearly** what it is to be a Christian and **rejoices in it**. They would have their life no other way. There is nothing else he or she wants. We are satisfied.
 - c. The Word of God is a **tremendous compliment** to Christians. It does not treat us as children to be governed by mere rules and regulations. Scripture **engages our reason and engages our understanding**.
 - d. If we would only carefully look at the overarching arguments Scripture gives to us, it would keep us from making so many foolish mistakes. Feminism would

have no fertile ground to take root in. Male domination would find no strong footing to stand in.

5. When it comes to marriage, **only the Christian can understand it** and appreciate it to its fullest.
 - a. **The non-Christian** can only see **marriage as a human arrangement**. That's why they think it can be redefined. They have no understanding of the divine aspect, the Christological picture that reaches into eternity. That is foreign to them.
 - b. It is incumbent upon Christians to **mature in their understanding of marriage**, to be amazed that it is a living metaphor for a much more glorious covenant relationship.

REMINDER: The **wrong approach** to this material as we sit together leaning about each others responsibilities before God is this...that **if you think you can use these commands to nag your husband or steamroll your wife** when they neglect these things, then **you've missed your primary purpose of loving and submitting** when the other is **making mistakes or in outright sin**.

I have found that when arguments flare up and Melissa and I reach an impasse, my most effective means at that point is to take it to God in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us our sins and offenses with each other and restore our relationship. This is far more effective than anything else.

TONIGHT

5 weeks ago we looked at the husbands in Ephesians 5
 Tonight we will start with **1 Peter 3:7**, the companion piece to the wives
 Then we will return to Ephesians 5 and refresh with a focus on application.
 Then look at a number of other passages that give husbands instructions.

HEADSHIP

If you **would ask anyone** what they think masculine headship or leadership looks like, the most common answers will portray men who are **strong, tough, decision makers, who are insensitive, independent, self-dependant, iron-fisted, and not afraid of a fight**.

Not everyone thinks this is what should define masculinity. Those more **liberally minded** will also say that men should be **sensitive, caring, family-oriented, and be in touch with their feminine side**.

Now, Scripture is quite that **it is disgraceful for either sex to exhibit characteristics of the opposite gender. God created male and female differences, and he doesn't want those differences crossed**. On the surface Scripture has something to say about both clothing and hair length. Men are forbidden to wear womens clothes. It is disgraceful for women to have hair short like men, and it is disgraceful for men to have hair long like women. God wants women to appear feminine and men to appear masculine. This isn't social conditioning, it's something

built into our genders. We don't see any societal inversion of this length of hair principle in any culture. There are precious few, if any, societies or peoples to whom men were identified by long hair and women with short hair.

All that to say this: **Men do not have a feminine side.** Men who behave in a manner that is strongly feminine are called 'effeminate' and in the OT they were stoned to death.

When people say that men need to get in touch with their feminine side, it usually means a wide variety of things. Some actually do believe and teach that there is a female nature in men that they must get in touch with. **That would make a man effeminate.** Others mean that men need to be less brute, chauvinistic, and dictatorial – **basically the sinful expression of masculinity.** This is how I prefer to look at these categories.

The Biblical Categories are:

Sinful Masculinity --

Effeminate – men who behave like or adopt the manners of women.

Domineering Male – sinful expression of the dictatorial male.

Biblical Masculinity --

Q. What does it mean to be *Biblically masculine*?

Q. How does a man to lead his wife? What does godly headship look like? What kind of man has your wife been designed to respond to with a sense of fulfillment, and one that is a joy and pleasure to submit to? How to be a married man?

12 CHARACTERISITIC OF BIBLICAL MASCULINE HEADSHIP

1 Peter 3: 7

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP LIVES IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY

- **Live** in an understanding *way*. It is not a command to **understand experientially**.
- **Gnosin**—root gnosis/knowledge. Usage means understanding, perception
- Live with – *verb*. Understanding way – *noun*.
- Describes how, in what way, we are to live with our wives.
- Consideration for your wife's *feelings, struggles, challenges, fears, joys, idiosyncracies, sins, energy, etc.*
- Part of our ability to husband our wives, to lead them and love them, to care for them, is to have **intimate knowledge of them**. **You can't love, lead or care for that which you don't know.**
- TO LIVE WITH A WIFE IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY IS PERSONAL
 - This directs men away from a **one-size fits all** approach to being a husband.

- The way Julie is cared for and led is different than the way Joanna is cared for and led.
- The same is true for a wife's submission. Submission to Andrew will look much different than submission to Dave. We each have personality, and sin, and strengths and weaknesses in our leadership. Nevertheless, that will define submission.
- **For a husband to love a wife factors in all of those things.**
 - *What are her sinful tendencies,*
 - *what are her strengths,*
 - *what kinds of things give her joy,*
 - *what kind of things turn her off,*
 - *what situations make her fearful,*
 - *what situations does she thrive in,*
 - *what are the challenges she's facing at the moment,*
 - *what makes her feel loved and valued?*
- Understanding is something you **grow in**.
 - You should be better at this 10 years into your marriage than you were a 2.
- Understanding takes **effort**. It takes **listening**. It takes being **observant**. It takes **failing**.
- You can live with her in an *understanding way* without *understanding why*.
- None of these qualities are a **checklist or legal requirement** that you must keep. They are **principles** to help you engage in a God oriented marriage.
 - Your wife cannot come to you and say, "You don't understand me" implying that you haven't met some clearly defined requirement.
 - This is a process. It's a growth. And you can be **negligent** of these things.
 - We can both be so ***unfair in pointing each others failings that we undermine each other dramatically***, and in the end, we ROB ourselves of the very thing we want, by the manner in which we try to get them.
 - If a wife constantly badgers her husband for *not understanding her*, I can tell you one thing for sure – that husband will cease try.
- **Never give up**. In the end, your wife will love you for the effort your made to live with understanding.
 - If you give up, ***then you've just missed the single greatest way you can serve and please your wife.***
- God knows men need to be taught this. Because **our sin nature will carry us away from doing this** *because* we don't **understand** her, and it seems impossible.
 - Do wives understand their husband's persistent need for sex? No. Do you want your wife to give up trying to understanding it? No.

2.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP SHOWS HONOR

- How do you show honor to one who is weaker?
 - Taking the **heavy end of things**.
 - When she has the heavy end, **not having the same expectation**.
 - **Going out of your way** to help and give aid.
 - To **come alongside** with encouragement and support.

- This is to **sacrifice your privilege for her needs**. That's true honor. This is to serve your wife in your strength. ***Be strong for her.***

3.) *MASCULINE HEADSHIP IS MOTIVATED BY JOINT INHERITANCE*

The wife is a **joint heir** with the husband in the **grace of life**.

She is part of the same ***fellowship of faith***.

She is not of a lower social status (which was true of many cultures).

There is **no autonomy** in life for the husband.

Life isn't yours alone.

There is no room to be a lone ranger in any sense whatsoever.

She is an equal with you before God.

You both ***share in the inheritance*** of the grace of life.

She is **God's daughter**. She is your **sister-in-Christ**.

Joint heir in the grace of life. She is your best friend. She is your confidant. She is your counsellor. She is your encourager. She is your cheerleader. She is your spiritual partner. She is the sister-in-Christ that God has entrusted to your care. She is a very important person in your life.

Potential Consequence of not living with understanding or showing honor is that your prayers may be hindered.

HINDERED PRAYER

Paul has something ***very specific*** and ***very serious*** in mind regarding prayer and it's hindrance in your conduct of being a husband.

Some suggestions are:

NOT SO SERIOUS: Conflict disrupts the relationship, so therefore a husband and wife will not be likely to pray together, or be able to concentrate in prayer individually while the discord remains.

VERY SERIOUS: A husband's actions that do not show honor or understanding immediately shut the doors of heaven until the actions are reversed.

I think it's reasonable for an man to look at this verse and ask the question, "I wonder if God has ever heard any of my prayers since I got married?" Is that unreasonable?

so that your prayers may not be hindered.

This is a **purpose clause**.

Hindered -- gk ‘to cut in, or to interrupt’

The idea is that there is an interruption of your phone service. Your prayers are **cut off**. There is an interruption in the sending and receiving of your prayers.

Husbands surely have cause to consider why their prayers are not being answered.

11 Hindrances to Prayer

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| 1. Unconfessed sin | Ps. 66:18 |
| 2. Insincerity | Matt. 6:5 |
| 3. Carnal motives | James 4:3 |
| 4. Unbelief | James 1:5–6 |
| 5. Satanic activity | Dan. 10:10–13 |
| 6. Domestic problems | 1 Pet. 3:7 |
| 7. Pride | Luke 18:10–14 |
| 8. Robbing God | Mal. 3:8–10 |
| 9. Refusing to submit to biblical teaching | Prov. 1:24–28; 28:9; Zech. 7:11–14 |
| 10. Refusing to forgive or to be forgiven | Matt. 5:23–24; 12, 14 |
| 11. Refusing to help the needy | Prov. 21:3; 1 John 3:16–17 |

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Let's consider the reverse.

Live with your wife in an understanding way
vs. living with her in an **inconsiderate, dismissive** way.

Show her honor as a weaker vessel...
vs. **demand** that she serve you.

VALUE YOUR WIFE AS A PERSON WHO IS UNIQUE AND WHO NEEDS A LOVING HUSBAND.

The posture of a husband **who refuses to honor his wife** as a weaker vessel, and does not hold her as a fellow heir in the grace of life, but treats her as **one who must serve him** as if he is superior to her will have his prayers hindered. There seems to perhaps be a vague similarity to helping the **needy**. While your wife isn't 'needy' if your husbanding of her does not account for the weaker vessel aspect then you are putting her into a position of need.

A husband who **does not value** or show respect to the wife that God has **entrusted him** to care for is a **disgraceful representative** of God in that home. **And God revokes prayer privileges for this sin.**

This is one safeguard aimed at keeping Christian husbands from negligence or abuse as a husband.

1Willmington, H. L. (1987). *Willmington's book of Bible lists*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.

Prayer is not something that we have a “**right**” to, even as Christians. 4 of these hindrances to prayer come right from the **mouth of our Lord. Prayer is privilege, and it’s a privilege that can be revoked.**

Ex. My kids. Often come to ask to do something, or have a treat...but they have neglected their chores – and I don’t listen to their requests.

Also, it doesn’t say that all of your prayers will always be hindered. That decision is ultimately Gods. ***What this verse is saying, is that God may refuse answering a prayer that he might otherwise answer because of your conduct as a husband.***

The **context is not conflict**, or arguments. It’s not limited to communal prayer between a husband and wife. The context is show honor and being a fellow heir, living in an understanding way – all of the above.

A husband’s role does not carry with it more privilege, it carries more responsibility, and your role directly impacts your relationship to God.

Ephesians 5:25-33

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her by the washing of the water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

4.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP EXERCISES SELF-GIVING/SANCTIFYING LOVE

LOVE is the primary quality of what a HUSBAND is to be. What is the most common way we characterize God? God is _____?

The Husband is to _____.

Ephesians gives us a picture of TRUE MASCULINE LOVE for a WIFE.

This love is both horizontal and vertical.

MASCULINE HEADSHIP GIVES OF HIMSELF SACRIFICIALLY

A husband must sacrifice himself and his needs for those of his wife. In whatever ways he is CALLED to LOVE his wife, he is to SACRIFICE HIMSELF WILLINGLY for the betterment of his wife.

As Christ laid down his life for the church, so to the HUSBAND is to LAY DOWN his life for his wife.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN the husband relinquishes his authority to her, or to the task God has called him to, anymore than Christ relinquished his authority or purpose to us.

IT DOES MEAN that the posture you take as a husband is one of SACRIFICE of yourself for the GOD-PURPOSED benefit of your wife, as you are COMMANDED TO LOVE.

Sacrifice yourself to love her in seeking her SANCTIFICATION
Sacrifice yourself to love her through NOURISHING HER.
Sacrifice yourself to love her through CHERISHING HER.

MASCULINE HEADSHIP SANCTIFIES IN LOVE

- Purify her, to produce holiness in her.
 - Be aware of her sin.
 - Be aware of the condition of her relationship with God.
 - Put her in the way of spiritual growth.
 - Confess your sins together
 - Put her in the company of women who challenge and encourage spiritual growth.
- Guard her purity, to protect her from anything that will defile her.
 - Keep her from bad influences.
 - Keep her from women who drag her down spiritually and feed her flesh.
- Lead her Spiritually.
 - Be the priest of the home, the shepherd.
 - Make sure she is being fed the Word of God.
 - At church
 - At home
 - Is God the center of your home? Is the Word of God being spoken there?
- You cannot sanctify your wife without yourself being sanctified.
 - Many Christian homes see an unequal yoking spiritually. Usually the wife sanctifies herself while her husband is spiritually apathetic. Sometimes the husband can so neglect the growth of his wife that she is left in the dust by her husband.
 - The IDEAL is that over time both of you soon come into close harmony in spiritual maturity.
 - The home is God's seminary training for men.
 - It's more important than an M Div.
 - The church tragically continues to fail leadership training of men.
 - They value seminary education over shepherding skill

- Seminary is important because churches are not a place where theological education happens. The church is ill equipped to train men in theology.

The Washing of the Water with the Word

The washing of the water with the Word leads us to see that the Word of God must have a regular and persistent place in your wife's life. This comes through guarding her personal time with the Lord, with leading her spiritually in the home, and with getting her to a church to hear the regular preaching of God's Word within the community of believers. This means being watchful of who her friends are, and who influences her – not in a paranoid kind of separation, but in a wise and loving way.

It is your job to make sure your wife and children are growing in their faith, moving in sanctification/holiness. No one on the planet has the privileged unique place that you do to advance and cultivate your wife's spiritual growth. In cultivating her you will cultivate yourself.

5.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP EXERCISES NOURISHING & CHERISHING LOVE

MASCULINE HEADSHIP NOURISHES IN LOVE

- Provide for your wife's needs. Be interested in where she is, what she's doing, what demands she's facing, what challenges are burdening her.
- She should be better supplied and fed than you are.

MASCULINE HEADSHIP CHERISHES IN LOVE

- The Word of God is uncanny in its accuracy of things. Women have a strong desire to be CHERISHED, ADORED.
- Does your wife feel cherished, valued, loved? Does she feel like she is precious to you?

Headship is primarily *a responsibility to love, not a license to rule*. A husband who thinks that God has ordered marriage so that his wife would serve him at command is chauvinistic, and not Christian.

Some have suggested that heavy-handed male authority is supported by Ephesians 5:24, that the wife is to submit to her husband in everything. God is giving the wife the command to submit from her POV – he is not telling the husband to demand her submission. In fact, what he does is the opposite. To love her as Christ loved the church means you love her when she is in sin and is

usurping your authority. The kind of masculine love that Christ calls us to is completely antithetical to a domineering kind of masculine authority.

Your exercise of headship is not to be despotic, but Christ-like. Christ does not rule the church, he loves the church, nourishes the church and cherishes her. Christ defines the true nature of male leadership. He is the ultimate alpha-male. The world's understanding of impressive male leadership is that of a heartless, brute tyrant.

The recipient of such loving headship is filled with joy and freedom. The church rejoices in her relationship with Christ, and it brings out melody and singing and thankfulness and joyful submission to her Lord (Ephesians 5). So to, I wife should feel joy and thankfulness and privilege to be under your loving headship. Her submission to you should be an act of joy.

1 COR gives us some CORROLARY ASPECTS to TRUE LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

These are not passive emotions. These are not adjectives. These define love as an active and deliberate choices of the will.

NOTICE ALSO these qualities are often DIRECTLY OPPOSED to what happens in your marriage.

POSITIVE QUALITIES	NEGATIVE QUALITIES
Patient	Impatient
Kind	Unkind (Harsh—Col 3:19)
Does not envy	Envy
Does not boast	Boasts
Is not arrogant	Arrogant
Is not rude	Rude
Does not insist on own way	Insists on own way
Not irritable	Irritable
Not resentful	Resentful
Does not rejoice at wrongdoing	Rejoices at wrongdoing
Rejoices with the truth	Does not rejoice with the truth
Bears all things	Limits on what it will bear up under
Believes all things	Limits on what it will believe
Hopes all things	Limits on what it will put hope in
Endures all things	Limits on what it will endure
Love never fails	Love has a limit

6.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP IS THE AUTHORITATIVE HEAD OF THE HOUSE

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife...

Yes there is a form of mutual submission, and yes the husband must be a servant leader. But you do not relinquish your authority. The wife does not need to lead or have supreme authoritative leadership in the home. To place a woman in a position of ultimate authority in the home is to fail at what it means to serving her, to mutual submission. Your submission is not a matter of submission to her as a person, your submission is to take responsibility in fulfilling the role that she needs you to be. And that is leader.

Early in my marriage, I don't remember the details, but I remember that there were some decisions to be made about the kids and I thought, well, the impact of that decision will affect Melissa more, so I'll let her decide what to do because I didn't have any opinion one way or the other. She had brought this to me a few times, and I continued to tell her to decide what she wanted to do. This was frustrating to her because she was being asked to assume authority over a situation she was not comfortable in assuming. She needed me to have an opinion and to make the decision. Without realizing it, I was not serving her as the HEAD. It wasn't that she cared one way or the other herself. It was that she was given a burden of leadership that was not hers to bear.

Being the HEAD of your wife and family implicates you in the responsibility of your wife and her function in her wifely duties. It means, as in any leadership kind of role, if she fails, or is not doing her job, or is struggling in her role, or needs help in her role, that all falls on your shoulders. **You are RESPONSIBLE for her in a way that she is NOT RESPONSIBLE for you.** If she fails, you're responsible as the head. If you fail as the head, you are responsible, she is not.

This is important to realize because we see this implication surfacing in different ways all throughout God's commands to husbands.

A wife has the MOST POWERFUL influence over her husband by submitting to you as she would submit to God. A husband has the most powerful influence by more direct means that involves the proper functioning of his headship.

NEGLIGENCE IS NOT AN OPTION.

Any form of leadership or responsibility that is negligent or irresponsible receives strong rebuke.

We have a responsibility to lead. If we are not consciously leading, then we are probably not leading at all. To be a husband means you are conscious of your duties and you work at fulfilling them, and you will see sacrifice of those things you desire. If you don't sense the sacrifice, or the effort then you are drifting in your own fog. You might be lost in your fog and very content with it, but your wife is lost in it to and she is not happy. The fog of negligence is not something you want to tolerate.

7.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP FEARS THE LORD & WALKS IN HIS WAYS

Psalm 128

Your fearful reverence to God demonstrates it's truth by walking in HIS ways, not your own. This works itself in blessings within your home.

Your wife will be a FRUITFUL VINE

Wine was a source of joy to the Israelites

Your children will be like OLIVE SHOOTS around your table.

Olives and olive oil were a highly valued produce in Israel

Fearing the Lord means submitting yourself to YOUR HEAD, CHRIST. How do you do that? Submit to the authority he places over you – in the Church age, that is the Word of God: Scripture.

This means you spend time learning from God's Word and building your family around God's Word. God's Word is your ultimate authority. The culture you live in is not your authority. The people around you are not your authority. Your extended family is not your authority.

8.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP IS SPIRITUAL PRIEST FOR HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN

Job 1:5

And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

This seems like a very unassuming passage, and not particularly relevant to a husband because there's no mention of Job's wife.

Consider that Scripture tells us very little about Job. All we have are 5 verses to introduce Job.

Aside from a snapshot picture of his wealth and reputation in the east, God tells us two things that are very important about Job.

Job 1:1

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

1. Job had a righteous character.
2. Job was the spiritual leader of his family. Family priest.

His wife isn't named in this particular instance in the consecration of his children – but it's particular to this feasting. God is giving us a glimpse of the spiritual care that he has for his family. If he cares for his kids this way, he must be in great care of his wife spiritually too.

Job is blameless
 Upright
 Fearing God
 Turning from evil

He is a husband and father who is a worthy model for our own spiritual leadership in the home.

Look at some PARTICULARS

Job lived in the days of the patriarchs, before Moses and formation of the nation of Israel.
 Job was concerned about his children's hearts.

A modern day Job in the day of the church will shape his family's hearts by making God's Word central to the home. Scripture is the primary tool for shaping the heart. It's read, memorized and valued.

Scripture – read it. Memorize it.
 Prayer corporately
 Prayer one on one – develop the habit of praying daily WITH your wife.
 Participation in the community of God's people
 Serving one another
 Being fed under the careful teaching of God's Word.

Pray for your wife.

Hebrews 7:25

...since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus as our priest makes intercession for his bride. So too a husband should have his wife's concerns at the foremost of his prayers. PRAY FOR YOUR WIFE.

9.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP INVOLVES THE WIFE AS HELPER

Genesis 2:18

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

It is often very tough to think in these terms today.

- Our society values ***individualism***, which motivates *men* to separate themselves from their wives. Scripture does not value individualism. In fact, Scripture repeatedly emphasizes partnership and community.

- Our society values *feminism, gender equality, and gender neutrality*, which motivates *women* to separate themselves from their husbands.

There is a partnership to marriage that is unique. God gave man a wife to be his partner and helper in life, fitted to him. Your wife can help you in ways no other man can. She has a window, a front seat view into your life, from a female perspective that you need. If you ignore her in this, you are handicapping yourself in a way that cannot be made up through any other means.

God designed her to HELP YOU! To partner in life to achieve YOUR PURPOSES that God has for you.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

For the wife these good works are laid out much clearer. Your marriage implicates the wife in the works that God has for the husband. She is to help him in his work, directly or indirectly, whatever the case may be. The wife is to help her husband walk in the works that God has prepared for him.

The husband is to seek his wife's help. He is not to think of his work as if he was divorced from his wife. Do we engage in our ministry, in our raising the kids, in our own spiritual growth as if we were divorced?

10.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP IS FAITHFUL TO HIS WIFE IN SPIRIT.

Through the prophet Malachi, God condemns his people for two things. First, by their turning to foreign Gods. And second...

Malachi 2:13-15

And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning, because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was that one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. For the man who hates and divorces, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.

Above all else, through all the trials, difficulties, challenges, disappointments, hurts, MASCULINE HEADSHIP remains faithful to the wife.

Your marriage has direct impact to your relationship with God. Your marriage covenant is ever before God. Your faithfulness is an ever-present consideration of God. Why?

Your covenant union has a spiritual nature to it's union.

Your covenant union produces children who potentially turn to God.

Divorce severs that covenant in a violent, hateful manner, which produces tears and groaning – not just from the divorced wives – but from the children. It is a violence that visits the entire family, whether intentionally or not.

Husbands, **GUARD YOURSELVES IN YOUR SPIRIT**, and **DO NOT BE FAITHLESS**.

- Not just – “Don’t divorce.” This is a guarding against divorce in your SPIRIT. Do not even entertain the idea of turning away from your wife and turning to another.

BE FAITHFUL IN SPIRIT.

We act on our thoughts. Our thoughts begin paving roads to action before we take that road. Never let your spirit allow any thoughts of unfaithfulness. Those thoughts are the first step toward divorce. **GUARD YOURSELVES!**

TITUS 2

Titus 2:1-2

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.

Titus 2:6

Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

The **OLDER MEN** are generally men whose children have become adults. These qualities Paul outlines for older men are **CHARACTERISTICS OF MATURITY** that we need to be working toward in our own growth.

11.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP IS SOBER-MINDED

Not drunks.

12.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP IS DIGNIFIED

There is a dignity and respect about you. It's easy for the younger generation to look up to you with veneration and see someone they can model their life after. Young men should be able to look at you and see that they can learn a lot from you and your husbandry.

13.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP IS SELF-CONTROLLED

This given for both older and younger men as well as younger women, and implied for the older women.

Be master over your body and your responses to circumstances, to others and to your emotions. Have control over your passions, appetites & affections. Do not be easily spun out of control by your wife and children when they sin.

Being out of control is characterized by departing from the guidelines and barriers that God has set. It is frivolous, careless, irresponsible.

14.) MASCULINE HEADSHIP IS SOUND IN FAITH, IN LOVE, AND IN STEADFASTNESS.

These last 3 go together as a unit.

- ***Sound in faith*** – Not ‘faith’ as in what we exercise. ‘Faith’ as in the body of Christian faith and doctrine. A healthy understanding of God’s Word and the Christian faith. Strength here will make a man....
- ***Sound in Love*** – sound theology, rightly understood, submitted to the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in ones life, produces true love.
- ***Sound in steadfastness*** – endurance in the Faith. Strong doctrine, produces strong love, which will endure in the Faith through life. It is remaining in the Faith throughout life, and in spite of the trials and sufferings and disappointments that we face.

This is the model for growing into this kind of CHRISTIAN GODLY MASCULINE MATURITY

14 Characteristics of Biblical Masculine Headship

- 1.) Masculine Headship Lives In An Understanding Way**
- 2.) Masculine Headship Shows Honor**
- 3.) Masculine Headship Is Motivated By Joint Inheritance In The Grace Of Life**
- 4.) Masculine Headship Exercises Self-Giving/Sanctifying Love**
- 5.) Masculine Headship Exercises Nourishing & Cherishing Love**
- 6.) Masculine Headship Is The Authoritative Head Of The House**
- 7.) Masculine Headship Feels The Lord & Walks In His Ways**
- 8.) Masculine Headship Is Spiritual Priest For His Wife And Children**
- 9.) Masculine Headship Involves The Wife As Helper**
- 10.) Masculine Headship Is Faithful To His Wife In Spirit.**
- 11.) Masculine Headship Is Sober-Minded**
- 12.) Masculine Headship Is Dignified**
- 13.) Masculine Headship Is Self-Controlled**

14.) Masculine Headship Is Sound In Faith, In Love, And In Steadfastness.**14 Characteristics of Emasculated Headship**

- 1.) Emasculated Headship Does Not Seek to Live with Understanding**
- 2.) Emasculated Headship Shows Dishonor.**
- 3.) Emasculated Headship Is Motivated By Independence.**
- 4.) Emasculated Headship Exercises Self-Serving/Spiritually Negligent Love**
- 5.) Emasculated Headship Nourishes and Cherishes Oneself**
- 6.) Emasculated Headship either Neglects Authority or Uses Authority to Privilege Oneself.**
- 7.) Emasculated Headship Walks in the Way that Seems Right in His Own Eyes, Independent of the Lord.**
- 8.) Emasculated Headship has no Spiritual Consideration for His Family**
- 9.) Emasculated Headship Does Not Involve His Wife.**
- 10.) Emasculated Headship Is Unfaithful in Spirit to his Wife.**
- 11.) Emasculated Headship Is Impulsive and Given to Drunkenness.**
- 12.) Emasculated Headship Is Laughable in Old Age.**
- 13.) Emasculated Headship Is Controlled by Ones Passions & Affections.**
- 14.) Emasculated Headship Is Immature in Faith, Incoherent in Love, and Inconsistent**