

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 11

Husbands: Leading with Love

- I. No Dictators Allowed
 - A. Is John 3:16 the most well-known verse in the Bible? Among Christian husbands it might be Ephesians 5:22-23.
 - B. Too many Christian husbands like to throw their weight around, using this verse as though God gave them absolute dominion in the home.
 - C. The verse that governs this entire section of scripture is often overlooked.
 - 1. This section of Ephesians 5:22-6:9 is actually an expansion of Ephesians 5:21. "Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."
 - 2. The old man is self-centered. The new man (or woman), however, submits to others, Philippians 2:3-4
 - D. Men, we are the heads of our homes, the leaders.
However, our headship is not meted out by forcing the family to accomplish our greatest desires, Luke 22:25-26.
 - E. Husbands, the next time you resort to "I am the husband! I am the head! You have to do what I say!" to win an argument, you need to know you are not following God's plan for leadership.
 - F. That said, we recognize God has given the husband great responsibility in his role in the home.
 - 1. He is the head of the home.
 - 2. This responsibility is mutually exclusive of what the wife or children do.
 - G. There are two words that sum up the role of the husband: Leadership, Love
- II. Leading Like Christ
 - A. Ephesians 5:23 says, "The husband is head of the wife, as Christ also is head of the church." To fulfill our responsibilities of leadership in the home, we need to mirror Jesus' leadership of His church.
 - B. Four keys to Christ's leadership of the church:
 - 1. As Christ has **authority** in the church, so does the husband have authority in the home, Ephesians 1:22-23; Proverbs 3:5.
 - a. Remember Christ's headship was qualified in 1 Corinthians 15:27. The Son did nothing from his own authority, but was submissive to His head, the Father, John 5:19, John 5:30, John 12:49, 1 Corinthians 11:3
 - 2. As Christ is the **savior** of the church, we husbands are to be saviors in our family. Ephesians 5:23 → He is the savior of the body.
 - a. Luke 19:10 – Christ exercises His authority for our benefit, not His.
 - b. Being a leader means taking others somewhere, i.e., we are taking our family to heaven.
 - c. Hebrews 13:17

3. As Jesus sets the **example** for His church, husbands must be an example for their families.
 - a. Ephesians 5:22-33 - Jesus as our great example, 1 Peter 2:21; Hebrews 2:14-18. Christ was unwilling to say, "Do as I say, not as I do."
 - b. In the same way, husbands, we need to be examples. We must follow advice similar to what Paul told Timothy, 1 Timothy 4:12.
4. As Jesus **serves** His church, husbands must serve their families.
 - a. Much of this has already been discussed.
 - b. Jesus exercises His headship to serve us. He served us by coming into this world and giving His life as a ransom for many, Matthew 20:28.

C. We are to be servants in the home. Our wives and children are not our property or our servants.

III. Love Like Christ

- A. Ephesians 5:25 says, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her." Husbands are the leaders in the home, but their leadership is governed by love.
- B. There are four keys to the love husbands should demonstrate in the home.
 1. Our love must be unconditional.
 - a. Go back to chapter 8 in the lesson on love, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.
 - b. Colossians 3:19
 2. Our love must be sacrificial, Ephesians 5:25; John 15:13.
 - a. Husbands, we cannot claim we love our wives if we are not willing to sacrifice for them.
 - b. Are we willing to sacrifice for our wives?
 3. We must love our wives by providing for them, Ephesians 4:15-16.
 - a. We husbands are to do the same for our wives, Ephesians 5:28-29.
 - b. We must nourish our wives, providing not only physical nourishment but also spiritual and emotional support they need, 1 Peter 3:7.
 4. We must love our wives by honoring them, Ephesians 5:26-27.
 - a. Jesus loved the church, giving Himself up for her that she might be presented to Him in glory. He wanted to glorify us and make us glorious.
 - b. 1 Peter 3:7
 - c. We honor our wives as fellow heirs of the grace of life. They are someone for whom Christ died. Important to Christ = Important to me.
 - d. Peter said to honor her as the "weaker vessel."

C. Proverbs 18:22

1. Husbands are the leaders in our homes. That does not provide us with great rights; it provides us with great responsibilities.
2. Let us lead our wives and our homes with great love, lest our prayers be hindered, and our families be lost. 1 Peter 3:7

IV. Today's Response

- A. Husbands, ask your wives and your children what you can do this week to serve and help them.
- B. Whose goals and desires take precedence in your home?