

## **Male Leadership in the Home**

### **1. Attack on the Family**

#### A. A variety of fronts:

1. Definition: Anything will do; single-parent; same sex; extended relatives. "It takes a whole village to raise a child."
2. Women cannot be satisfied and fulfilled by home-centered lifestyle.
3. Children should not be strongly disciplined either by spanking or other punitive measures.
4. No-fault divorce.
5. Safety nets: prenuptial agreements, separate accounts.
6. Welfare system - Made fractured families work financially.
7. Role of husband: Final authority denied; leadership undermined. Male is being lampooned as incompetent, goofy, brutish while women are successful, together.

B. These influences have combined to destroy confidence in marriage, confuse men and women concerning their proper roles, and crack the very foundation which lies beneath any successful country - strong home environments.

### **2. Defining the Role of Woman**

#### A. God created the female:

1. Role: to be a wife. This is the natural role going back to creation. It is the ideal, not the commanded role. But man says career, career, career.
2. Realm: primary responsibility to the home, including children (Tit 2:4-5). A woman should not have **any** distraction (job, volunteer work, friends, hobbies) which interfere or detract from her primary responsibilities.
3. Authority: in submission to her husband.

#### B. Very clearly stated:

1. "Submit to your own husbands" - Eph 5:22, 24 (also Col 3:18; 1 Pet 3:1).

2. “As to the Lord” (Eph 5:22); “as church subject to Christ” (5:24).
3. She is to submit out of consideration that Christ has so commanded her. The husband may not deserve it on his own merits.

C. These are the crucial issues which hormones block out when dating/engaged.

### 3. Defining the Role of the Man

A. By divine decree: “For the husband is the head of the wife” (Eph 5:23).

1. Qualification #1: “As Christ is head of the church ... Savior of the body.”
2. Thus the husband’s authority is toward his wife’s salvation and **never** exercised to threaten, demoralize or weaken her.

B. Authority governed: “Husbands, love your wives” (Eph 5:25).

1. Qualification #2: “As Christ also loved the church.” This love is sacrificial (Eph 5:25b; 5:2), unto purification (5:26-27), and passes knowledge (3:19).
2. Governing principles rather than check-list of dos and don’ts. *Question:* Has my leadership made my wife spiritually stronger, or have I been a stumbling block?

C. Qualification #3: “Husbands ... love own wives as own bodies” (5:28-32).

1. Self-abuse is dysfunctional.
2. Again, raising marriage to a spiritual level: “Just as the Lord does the church.”
3. The oneness of Christ/church, husband/wife originates in Gn 2:24 (Eph 5:31).

### 4. Observations

- A. The husband can delegate to the wife just as Christ delegates to the church.
- B. Some women spend their lives trying to regain all the authority they can by badgering, berating, criticizing, and otherwise undermining a husband’s leadership.
- C. People more mistreat themselves by **neglect** rather than outright abuse.
- D. Subordination is not demeaning. Christ was subordinate to God and retained His dignity, integrity, identity.
- E. Any man who thinks his authority is given for selfish service, comfort, advantage and that he can dictate to his wife without her input is an fool.