

THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND

LESSON 8

Last lesson, we said the God-designed role of the wife was:

- To sacrificially **HELP**
- To sacrificially **SUPPORT**

Now we look at God's design for the role of the husband.

The word that is the ultimate requirement for husbands to fulfill their God-designed role in marriage is:



SAC – RI – FICE

I wanted to break it down into 3 words to make it easier for us men to understand. So . . . men, any questions?

The God-Designed Role of the Husband:

- To sacrificially **LEAD**
- To sacrificially **LOVE**

If we put the role of the wife and husband together, it would look like this:

WIFE

To sacrificially HELP
To sacrificially SUPPORT

HUSBAND

To sacrificially LEAD
To sacrificially LOVE

THE 1ST ROLE - - TO SACRIFICIALLY LEAD

Eph 5:23

*“For the husband is **head** of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.”*



For this first role of the husband, we're going to look at 2 Greek words. **Head** here in these verses, and **Rule**, used primarily in **1Tim 3:4**. (also see 1Cor 11:3, Col 3:18, and 1Pet 3:1).

In **Eph 5:23**, the Greek word for **head** means;
to lead, to take responsibility for.

God made men to instinctively lead. But what does that really mean,
to lead?

Webster's definition of lead is:

*to guide by going in advance
to direct on a course or in a direction*

Men, are you doing this?

Are you **guiding** your family by going in advance?

Are you **directing** the course for your family?

The word **lead** is a proactive word. It means to **lead by example**, saying,
“watch what I do, and the way I go, and then . . . follow me.”

God has appointed you as the leader. You must go out in front for the good of your family, and you must set the course.

If you bail out of this role, then your wife has no choice but to take it over. And that is the beginning of a dangerous downward spiral that is often very destructive to the marriage and family, all because the man has failed to take his role as a proactive leader.

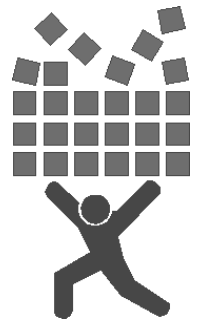
Years ago, Lucille Ball was on the Merv Griffin show, and she was asked to give her opinion on why so many marriages were falling apart.

She simply said, *“Things are falling apart because Papa’s gone. If Papa were here, he would fix it.”*

Men, that is our role, our responsibility: to be there, to fix it when it’s wrong.

That is the role God has ordained you to. We need to stand up and take it, and stop serving our own self-centered needs.

When your wife is hurting, when life is crashing in around her, you must minister to that need with no concern for yourself. You must come under her, to carry her burdens.



And the same with your children . . .

They are not there to make your life better. They are there for you to sacrificially lead and love, just as Christ does for the church.

In **1Tim 3:4**, speaking of leaders in the church, God says this man must rule his house well.



The Greek word for **rule** means:

- To preside over
- To protect or guard
- To give aid
- To care for
- To give attention to

Men, are you doing this? This is the first God-designed role for the Husband - - **to sacrificially lead**.

THE 2ND ROLE - - TO SACRIFICIALLY LOVE

Continuing in **Eph 5**, we have the second role, **to sacrificially LOVE**:

Eph 5:25

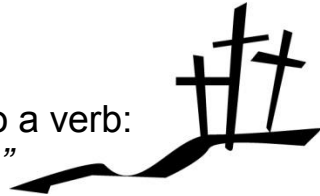
"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,"

This word Love is that supernatural Greek word for love, most often called Agape.

However, in this verse, the actual word is Agapao, which is the verb form of agape. The verb expresses **AN ACTION**, and this use of agape is all about **AN ACTION**.

It's the same form of Agape found in John 3:16, also a verb:

"For God so loved . . . that He gave His only son."



- Agape, in its verb form, is best defined as an ACTION of unconditional, sacrificial love by choice.

Now, let's just admit something right here. **WE CAN'T DO THIS!!!**

By nature, we don't even have this type of love in us. It's supernatural, and God knows that. That's why **Rom 5:5** says . . .

Rom 5:5

". . . the love [Agape] of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."



Men, we must seek God daily to pour into our hearts this supernatural love for our wives and families,

The only way we can fulfill our God-designed role as husband is to crucify our self-will, and let the agape love of God rule our day-to-day life.

Now, back to Eph 5:25:

Eph 5:25

*“Husbands, love your wives, **just as** Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,”*



Remember, the words **just as** mean in the same proportion as.

So we can read **Eph 5:25** *“Husbands, love your wives, in the same proportion as Christ also loved the church.”*

- † Christ loves the church in every way and at all times.
- † Christ always does what is best for the church.
- † Christ always provides all that the church needs.
- † Christ loves with an all giving, all sacrificial love that never changes; and
- † There is NOTHING that can separate the church from the love of Christ.

And husbands, the church wasn't always loving in return.
But Christ's love never changes and neither should yours.

The following outline comes from Skip Heitzig's study on this subject;

A husband's love must be . . .

SACRIFICIAL • SANCTIFYING • SECURE

Eph 5:25, one more time . . .

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,”



OUR LOVE MUST BE SACRIFICIAL

Christ's love for the church is sacrificial: He gave Himself for her, and that is exactly how we are to love our wives.

The sad thing is there are husbands who'd say, "I'd die for my wife," but they can't get up off the couch and help with the dishes.

We can't just be willing to **DIE** sacrificially. We must be willing to **LIVE** sacrificially, which is much, much harder.

You **MUST** put yourself under her needs to help her carry her burdens.

You **MUST** sacrifice your SELF for your wife's good.



OUR LOVE MUST BE SANCTIFYING

Eph 5:26-27

²⁶ *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*

²⁷ *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."*



Eph 5:26-27 is one of the most beautiful pictures of us loving our wives as Christ loved the church, and it's one that is far too seldom actually done.

Sanctify means to be set-apart, and that is a beautiful picture of loving our wives, that we might set them apart, and that we might wash the Word over them, that the Word would heal them and make them whole, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

This is the role of being priest of the home, to sanctify your wife, to minister the Word of God to her, and also to your children.



OUR LOVE MUST BE SECURE



Eph 5:28-30

²⁸ *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.*

²⁹ *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*

³⁰ *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones."*

If your wife feels that she is truly an extension of your own body, I promise you, she will feel secure. You must nourish and cherish your wife as an extension of your own body. if you will, then she will **feel secure** in your love. If you don't, then she will **feel insecure** in your love.

There is NOTHING in the Bible, that paints God's role for the husband as a domineering, self-centered dictator with his wife running around to make him happy. **That is nowhere in the Bible!!**

When a husband's role gets distorted by his self-centered desires, then he can become a blasphemous example of Christ.

Men, if you think that's how Jesus Christ leads and loves the church, then I'd have to say you don't know Jesus Christ very well.

God's Design for the Role of the Husband is to:

- Sacrificially **lead** his wife and family
- Sacrificially **love** his wife, as Christ loved the church

This M.I.P. follows our last lesson, but now it gets turned on the husbands.

Response Time . . .

Who determines if the husband is fulfilling his role to lead and love?

☐ Wife ☐ Husband

M.I.P.

Session 8 – Most Important Point

**IT IS THE WIFE THAT DETERMINES IF THE HUSBAND IS
SACRIFICIALLY LEADING AND SACRIFICIALLY LOVING HER.**

Husbands: You're only leading if your wife **FEELS** secure.
You're only loving if your wife **FEELS** loved.



How often do we see a husband working himself crazy,
while his wife feels alone and unloved at home.



So husbands, please hand your workbook to your wife . . .



TO BE COMPLETED BY THE WIFE IN THE HUSBAND'S WORKBOOK

3 areas my husband either **DOES** or **COULD** - make me feel secure:

___ Does	___ Could	_____
___ Does	___ Could	_____
___ Does	___ Could	_____

3 areas my husband either **DOES** or **COULD** - make me feel loved:

___ Does	___ Could	_____
___ Does	___ Could	_____
___ Does	___ Could	_____

Let's Pray: *"Lord Jesus, I surrender my self. I lay my self on the altar.
May I be consumed. May there be nothing of my self left in my marriage.
And Jesus, may You live in me by the power of the Holy Spirit to
sacrificially lead and sacrificially love my wife. I make this commitment to
You today, Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen."*