

Biblical Pillars for a Family Foundation

Pillar Number 5 – Man: Servant Leader

I. Review

- A. A biblical home will be Christ-centered (Pillar 1), Truth-filled (Pillar 2), Grace-practicing (Pillar 3), and United at the top (Pillar 4).
- B. The last thing we said was that to fulfill the “united at the top” design, men and women need to **understand their unique roles**.
- C. **Gender confusion** so epidemic now is connected to not knowing roles.
- D. 30% of US adults never marry and 45% of US adults whose marriages end in divorce or death of a spouse never remarry (2013, *Pew Research Center*, <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2014/11/14/four-in-ten-couples-are-saying-i-do-again/>). This means that at any one time, only about 51% of all American adults over the age of 18 are married (compared to 70% in 1960), the lowest in history (2011, *Pew Research Center*). Others never have children by adoption or by birth. But since the majority of the Bible’s teaching on men and on women is within their roles as married and parents, and since the Genesis 1-2 design is for adults to marry and become parents, we will use those pictures as our primary definition of God’s intent for men and women. Those not married or without children can still learn from God’s design and apply aspects to themselves.

II. What does it mean to be “Called of God”? (Applies equally to male and female)

We first need understand the concept of “call.” It is the foundation of a man, woman, boy or a girl having any prescribed roles. If God **has not called** us to anything particular, roles are up to our choosing. If God **has called** us in a unique way based on our gender, it is important to learn those roles He has designed.

- A. “Call” implies God’s “right to rule” (**Jer. 18:1-6; Lu. 6:46; 1 Cor. 10:31**)
- B. It suggests that we are each part of a “Larger Story” (**2 Corinthians 5:15**; Illustration Matthew 1:1, ff – **Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary**)
- C. It will be connected directly to that for which we were uniquely and purposefully made (Psalm 139:13-16; **Ephesians 2:10**)
- D. Together, man and woman were called to a responsibility in Genesis 1:26-28 – namely, to multiply, fill the earth and have dominion or rule over the earth and its creatures as stewards of His creation.

III. MAN – First Call - Manage his Work/Home (Environment) – Genesis 2:15

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

Remember that for Adam, home and work were one – the garden. When home and work are separated, the needs of one can overwhelm and blind us to the needs of the other. In our case as men, we need to apply what God says here about ‘the garden’ to both the work and home areas of our lives.

- A. Cultivate – ‘*habad*’: To work, to serve, to till, to dress – has to do with detailed, hands-on, up-close care for his place – a hands-on manager
- B. Keep – *shamar*: Hedge, guard, protect, attend to, preserve, save, watch – has to do with a more general oversight, more like a executive manager
- C. In essence, the idea is responsible management and guardianship.
- D. Implies a defined territory

IV. MAN - Called to Manage his Home (Family) – 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12

Here is the idea that he is to “oversee” his family’s well-being, their development and their self-government. [Economy = Oikonomia in Greek (*household order*)]

- A. Household – finances, facility, order
- B. Children under control – relationships of mutual respect
- C. With dignity – not combative or abusive

V. MAN - Called to Provide

This is one of the most misunderstood and neglected aspects of man’s call. God’s design was that the man would use his gifts and skills to provide for his family.

Genesis 2:15 – Through work, he meets family needs for food, covering.

- A. 1 Timothy 5:8 – denying his faith if he doesn’t work to meet needs of his mother or mother in law; how much more the case for immediate family?
- B. His call to provide is **the primary provisional responsibility** in the home. **It is also his first responsibility.** Proverbs 31:16, 24 shows us that a woman can work to supplement the needs of her home provided that her first job is done. But it does mean the man is the one God looks to for providing the family’s basic needs.
 - 1. One problem occurs here commonly in our day – man doesn’t take responsibility but expects his wife to help shoulder it. They lose their proper functioning and kids are misinformed.
 - 2. Second problem: women often work outside home when her first job isn’t yet done. What’s more, they often do so because they are pursuing a higher standard of living. (See 1 Tim. 6:6-8)

VI. Call to Love – Eph. 5:25-33 (Col. 3:19) / 1 Peter 3:7 – How does he love her?

- A. As Christ does the church
- B. Sacrificially
- C. Sanctifying her
- D. As themselves, both emotionally (inside) and out (physically)
- E. Cherishing and nourishing
- F. Understanding
- G. Protecting
- H. Honoring

VII. Call to Lead – 1 Corinthians 11:3 (Ephesians 5:23a)

- A. Again, example is like Christ – Christ leads man, and man leads woman
- B. Requires forward look and awareness of needs before they come – “provision” is made up of two words – “pro” meaning *forward* and “vision” meaning *see* – that is, he sees ahead what the needs are.

He’s not guided by the complaints of others as much as by his own care for those under his charge – he knows their need.
- C. Means being in front, living in such a way as to influence the direction others choose to go
 - 1. Common Mistake #1: abdicate leadership when others don’t follow
 - 2. Common Mistake #2: abusively force the compliance of others

- D. Leadership sets the stage for its followers to have every reason to follow. (It doesn't mean that he will be followed. Just see Jesus – for example, “*He came to His own, but His own received Him not*” – John 1:11)
- E. Leadership requires death to self in a unique way – you can't just do what you want to do and actually lead as God would have you
- F. Includes example, direction setting, awareness of where the followers are, preparation, character of integrity and humility
- G. Quality can be seen in 1 Thess. 2:7-12; 1 Timothy 3:1-12; 1 Peter 5:2-3
- H. Really, each man is called to be an ELDER (shepherd – role similar to *shamar*) of his home.

VIII. Call to Serve –

- A. John 13:1-17 (see especially vv. 14-15)
- B. Philippians 2:3-8
- C. Could be said to be **DEACON** (servant – role similar to *habad*) of his home (Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3:9-13)

IX. Quick Definition of a Man (Robert Lewis, *Authentic Manhood Study* and his book, *Raising a Modern Day Knight*)

- A. Rejects Passivity
- B. Accepts Responsibility
- C. Leads Courageously
- D. Waits expectantly for the *Greater Reward*

X. Homosexuality

Even though many same-sex attracted men develop that from the earliest days of their lives, before they even know what sexual attraction is, homosexual attitudes and behavior frequently reflect stepping away this call to initiative and loving leadership meant to characterize a man. When a man is in a risky place where rejection and failure are possible, homosexual acting out is often part of the avoidance of such risk. Part of a man's movement away from homosexual impulses involves risking other centered living and experiencing rejection.

Appendix One: Godly Men Overview/ John Morrison

Here's a quick survey of the Bible on some of the things it says about the role of a man. What are his unique jobs? How do they fit with the general roles of one generation teaching, training, trusting, providing, and protecting the next?

First, **I Tim 5:8**: he works diligently to meet the physical, financial needs of his family. That is, he works hard at his job, seeking from his employer feedback on how he can serve better. He works as unto the Lord so that his family's needs are met. If his wife contributes to the income of the family, he still sees the meeting of the needs of his family as essentially his responsibility. He takes responsibility for their solvency.

Second, **I Pet 3:7**: he loves his wife and shows it by a commitment to understanding her, honoring her, treating her as an equal yet giving grace to her as to one weaker. He listens not only to her words but her meanings. He values her even when her ways are not like his. He makes effort to show honor to her, partly by learning the language of love to which she responds - not the language of love which comes most easily to him. For example, while loyalty and touch may appeal most to him, words and deeds of service may mean the most to her.

Third, **Eph 6:4, Col 3:21** he guards himself from causing his children to stumble, especially into exasperation and anger. He pays attention to where his inattention, teasing or expectations pressure his children to frustration. He steers away from that.

Fourth, **Eph 6:4, Deu 6:4-7, Prov 1:8** he instructs and disciplines his children in the Lord, looking to their formal instruction in the ways of God and to their natural, informal inquisitiveness about the Lord and about life's lessons. That is, he takes responsibility to learn how to take time in the scriptures with his children. He seeks input from his wife, from church elders, his pastors or minichurch leader, his friends, older men in the Body how to instruct. Where in the Bible do I go, how often should we meet, how long do we meet, how do I keep kids from being bored, how do I get answers to questions I don't know, how do I deal with my own doubts, shortcomings. He also accepts the role of a discipler in the normal, day-to-day realities of eating meals together, working in the yard or house, disciplining corporally or with words or restrictions. He oversees and participates in times of recreation, going to bed, friends, etc. He takes it upon himself to learn how to make the most of these opportunities to teach, train, and trust.

Fifth, **Gen 1:28, 2:15; I Cor 7:33** he tends the "garden" which God has given him to manage, namely the physical plant of his family's surroundings. That is, he takes responsibility for and works on making his house or apartment a home, an attractive, orderly, welcoming place that reflects the beauty of God's creation and His heart. That is not to say he makes himself a slave to his home, but manages what's been entrusted to him so it can bring God glory. Through doing so, his wife feels provided for, his children learn skills they need for life, the man gets a diversion, others are made welcome. This, too, is a place where he may sometimes need help.

Sixth, **Gal 6:10 I Tim 6:17-19** he attends to the needs of the community of which he is a part, the believing community first and the unbelieving community next. He looks in prayer to the pressing needs of the people of whom his family is a part. Where is someone lacking an air conditioner, washer, drier or a car that runs? Where is someone lacking a job or an extra job to make ends meet? How can I pray for and help meet those needs? And he does the same for the unbelieving community.

