

Lesson 14, Part 1: Marriage – His Role

Introduction:

I. The Husband's Role

A. To _____

1. A word about roles within the home
 - a. Husbands and wives are equal in _____.

 - b. Husbands and wives are different in _____.

2. He leads with _____ - _____ authority.

1 Cor 11:3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

1 Cor 11:8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

3. He must lead for the _____ benefit.

4. He must take _____ for all that happens (and doesn't happen).

- Physical issues – provision and protection
- Spiritual issues (2 Thess 3:3) (more on this later)
- Resolution of _____
- Decision-making

5. He must lead by setting direction (see Appendices A and B).

- Spiritually
- Setting priorities
- Keeping things in balance
- Keeping the marriage God-focused

B. To _____

1. _____ is the standard (Matt 20:25-28; Phil 2:3-8).

From Wayne Mack, “. . . *a leader is first and foremost a servant*. His concern is not for himself; his concern is not to give orders, to boss other people around, to have his own way. His concern is to meet the needs of others. Indeed, if the best interests of others are not on his heart, if he is not willing to sacrifice himself – his personal needs, wants, desires, aspirations, time, money – if the needs of others are not more important than his own, he is not qualified to lead” (emphasis added)

2. He must serve by _____.

From Wayne Mack “[Jesus’s] life then was an example in living color of what He wanted His disciples to believe and how He wanted them to live. On the one hand, His exemplary life was a pattern or model for His disciples to follow. On the other hand, it earned their respect and made them willing to submit to His authority and leadership.

3. He seeks to meet their _____ (Mark 6:34; 8:1-3).

4. When appropriate, he seeks to meet their _____ (Mark 8:8).

C. To _____ (Eph 5:25-29; 1 Pet 3:7)

Defined by Lou Priolo “Love is giving others what they need without having some temporal reward as the primary motive. Love in the context of marriage is giving to your wife that which the Bible says she needs without having some temporal reward as your primary motive.”

1. _____ and _____ her

*Eph 5:28-29 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,*

- He must love her as his own body – with the same _____ and _____.
- He brings reward back to himself (v. 28)

2. _____ her (see Appendix D)

1 Pet 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.

II. Strengthening Your Marriage Alone

A. _____ Check – What are you thinking?

1. Live to glorify God
2. Rest in the providence of God
3. Daily seek joy _____ God

B. _____ Check – She is not the problem!

Jas 4:7-10 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

1. Submit to God
2. Draw near to Him
3. Cleanse your hands of sin
4. Purify your hearts
5. Humility

C. _____ Check - What are you doing?

1. Time in the Word (Pss 1:1-2, 119:11, 19:7-11)

Ps 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Ps 119:11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Ps 19:10-11 More to be desired are they [is Your Word] than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

2. Putting on and putting off

3. Planning for tomorrow but holding plans loosely (Matt 6:33, 34; Eph 5:15-16; Jas 4:13-15)

Matt 6:33-34 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Eph 5:15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,

Jas 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"-- yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

Appendix A
Characteristics of Good Shepherd-Leadership
From The Exemplary Husband, By Stuart Scott

- I must know where I'm going. I must be focused on knowing God's person and ways through His Word.
- I must be carefully decisive, not rash or indecisive, but diligently making decisions based on knowing God's ways.
- I must know how to lead lovingly. This means leading with compassion and consideration, cherishing my wife.
- I must lead by example. This imitates Christ's leadership and provides consistent leadership for my wife to look up to.
- I must know how to oversee, not trying to hold a tight leash on my wife. I must not micromanage her, but have confidence in her abilities. I mustn't overreact at the first sign of failure, but be patient and prayerful.
- I must be involved with my wife. I must not neglect her and be irresponsible. I must learn and be aware of her needs and activities.
- I must be diligent in my responsibilities. I can't be lazy or half-hearted in my efforts to care for my wife. I must make time if necessary.
- I must protect my wife physically and spiritually. I must never knowingly put her in danger's way without being there myself.
- I must provide for my wife. I must be concerned with her physical, relational, sexual, and spiritual needs.
- I must instruct my wife. I must not let her fend for herself spiritually, but regularly and humbly give her instruction in the Word and ways of God.
- I must correct my wife when necessary, confronting her lovingly with the truth of God and initiating church discipline if she is unrepentantly rebellious.
- I must seek to restore my wife when she is suffering spiritually. This will involve comforting her and encouraging her in God's Word.

Appendix B
Guidelines for Giving Directive to Your Wife
From The Complete Husband, By Lou Priolo

- Must be lawful according to the Bible. She is not required to obey if she would be clearly violating the Scriptures.
- Must be lawful in her eyes. If she believes it is sin, she is not required to obey.
- It is best if your directives are biblically based. If you can't, you might want to examine your motives and rethink your objection in light of Scripture.
- Your requests ought to be reasonable.
- She should be able to appeal requests that you make if they are not biblically based.
- Your directives and prohibitions should be in keeping with her abilities and in consideration of her weaknesses.
- Guard your heart against peremptory pride which interprets virtually all appeals or challenges as personal attacks against one's authority.
- The directives and prohibitions which you give to your wife should be infrequent.
- The wording of your directives and prohibitions should be in the form of entreaties rather than commands.

Appendix C
Specific Ways a Husband May Sanctify His Wife by Scripture
From The Complete Husband, By Lou Priolo

- Be sure that your wife has enough time for Bible study and prayer.
- You may spend time in the Word together or separately and then share what you've learned.
- Encourage her to ask you for help in answering any questions she may have about Bible doctrine or application.
- You could memorize sets of scriptures together.
- Make and explain your decisions on the basis of Scripture.
- Commend her in her biblical traits (reverence, self-control, discretion, love, joy, peace, etc.)
- Make every effort to provide her with valid scriptural reasons when you can't give her what she wants.
- Praise for any growth you see in her.
- Learn how to restore her when she does sin.
- Encourage her to be faithful in church attendance.
- Encourage other opportunities she may have to study the Scriptures.
- Provide scripturally-based music for her to listen to and Bible study tools
- Learn and communicate how to relate the Scriptures to life. Talk of them in the milieu of every day life (Deut. 6:7)
- Invest in Biblically sound books. Get rid of the rest.
- Determine which areas in her life she desires to change most and why she desires to change them and use these areas as springboards to search the Scriptures together for God's answers.

Appendix D
Ways to Show Your Wife Honor
From The Exemplary Husband, By Stuart Scott

- Tell her what she means to you and how thankful to God you are for her.
- Tell her specific things you appreciate about her or what she does (focus on her character)
- Speak kindly to her, the way in which you want to be spoken to.
- Do not speak to her or treat her in a condescending way.
- Only say things to her that will build her up
- Say things that build her up to others and when the two of you are with others.
- Do not say things that will belittle her to others or when the two of you are with others.
- Do not treat her as a lowly servant but serve her instead.