

**Introduction:** A loving, learning leader. Last week we considered "The Husband As Lover." This week we will consider together "the Husband as Leaders." I am using the term "leader" as a synonymous term for the biblical term "head" (Gk. kephalay) in Ephesians 5:23.

### This word used in several ways in the NT:

- 1.) The physical head (primary usage) – Matthew 5:36
- 2.) A fundamental part – Matthew 21:42 "chief cornerstone"
- 3.) Symbolically – Acts 18:6 "blood is on your head"
  - While these are not the primary meaning, they do give us something of the meaning and colors the term.
  - Ephesians 5:23 "For the husband is head of the wife."
  - Paul also uses this in this way in 1Corinthians 11:3ff; God/Christ; Christ/man; man/woman
  - Definition: "supreme, chief, prominent (Thayer); superior (Louw-Nida)
  - This being so, the question is "In what way is (in marriage) the man these things in relation to his wife?"

### I. WHAT THIS LEADERSHIP IS NOT

- 1.) Not a superiority of worth or value ("ontological" = the nature of being). They were together created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).
- 2.) Not a superiority in redemption (Galatians 3:28). In Christ, there is an equality. This is reflected in that the most common term for both Christian men and women is "brothers, brethren, and sons." In a world culture which defined men as superior than women, the Bible has a radical view of their equality.

### II. WHAT THIS LEADERSHIP IS

- 1.) Established in the creation order – 1Timothy 2:12-13 1Corinthians 11:8
- 2.) Reflected in the relationship of Christ to God – 1Corinthians 11:3
  - God is the head of Christ. This means that God was the authority, and Christ the one who submitted.
- 3.) Patterned after Christ's relationship to the church – Ephesians 5:23 Colossians 1:18
  - The parallel is made between this relationship of the husband and wife and Christ and the church. So in answer to what headship looks like, and how it functions, we do well to examine what we are told about Christ's relationship to the church
- 4.) An economic superiority. Economic = that which is necessary for proper management (not financial).
  - A person who leads, rules, or is in charge; a leader, chief, or director: *the head of the corporation*.
  - While our culture dreams of radical "equality", the fact remains that people cannot function. Where decisions have to be made, and disagreements inevitably exist, there will either be chaos and rule by force or someone has to be responsible and make decisions and be accountable. Without some form of government among people, the only option is **Anarchism**.  
*Anarchism, therefore, is a political theory that aims to create a society which is without political, economic or social hierarchies. Anarchists maintain that anarchy, the absence of rulers, is a viable form of social system and so work for the maximization of individual liberty and social equality. (from Anarchism FAQ web site).*

### III. WHAT THIS LEADERSHIP INCLUDES

- 1.) Accountability – Those who are in leadership always stand in increased responsibility before God.
  - This is seen in the leadership of **the church** (Hebrews 13:17; James 3:1), they will give an account and receive a stricture judgement. This is also seen in the **civil government** (Romans 13:1 Psalm 82). The leaders are always responsible to lead the governed, and face special judgement for not exercising their office.
  - This does not negate each persons **personally responsibility** Romans 14:12 2Corinthians 5:10
- 2.) Rule – 1Timothy 3:5 "be a leader, have authority over, manage, care for, give help" (UBS) "influence others as to cause them to follow a recommended course of action; be active in helping and giving aid; engage in something with intense devotion (Louw-Nida).
- 3.) Take care – 1Timothy 3:5 "care for with diligent concern; think about" (Louw-Nida). The pastor is to be an example of this, and it is a small picture of what kind of leader he will be in the church.
- 4.) Teaching – His wife Genesis 2:16-17 1Corinthians 14:35; Ephesians 5:25-27.
  - Also his children Genesis 18:19 Deuteronomy 6:7 Joshua 24:15 Ephesians 6:4 1Thessalonians 2:11
  - This alone is an argument for "family worship", whatever that may look like (future study)
- 5.) Provision – Care for the physical needs 1Timothy 5:8; Provision of future inheritance 2Corinthians 12:14.
  - We live in a culture where it is expected that both man woman are the "bread winners." Work for women is not sinful, as seen in Proverbs 31. In Zambia (and other countries), it is a case of survival.
  - God intends that the man prepares for this role. In our country, there is little by way of opportunities if pursued that prevent a man from doing so. What may prevent it is inadequate preparation (college, vocational training, etc.). What may prevent it are dreams of success in fields which are very difficult (especially the arts, music, writing, etc.).

- He must think about things like finances, how to pay the bills, what kind of debts they can take on, how is he preparing to take care of his family if there is illness or for children (i.e. insurance and benefits).
- There may be cases in which a man cannot, due to sickness, disability, etc. but this is certainly his ordinary role.
- 6.) Protection - This would include physical and spiritual protection.
  - For this, there is the need to be courageous 1Corinthians 16:13 "act like a man." This is to be the especial quality of the man. The protection includes from spiritual deception. Even was deceived, but not Adam. He was to protect her spiritually, to communicate the Word of God to His wife. He was "with her." He bears the responsibility of the human race. We are always connected with Adam, not Eve (Romans 5:12-17 1Corinthians 15:21-22).
- 7.) Sacrificial servanthood – Mt20:25-28. In all the analogies, it is the leadership (shepherds, husbands, civil authorities) who lay down their life for others. This is not a dictatorship, but unselfish and sacrificial (i.e. suffering) servanthood.

#### APPLICATION

- ***First and foremost let us look to Christ as the Head of His church as the perfect portrait of these things. Let us look and marvel and worship.***
- Husbands, this position of leadership is not what you should be, but what you already are. Even if you abrogate or neglect your role, you still stand accountable before the Lord.
- We live in a culture where there is a "division of labor." The man works "in the world", and the woman's place is "in the home." But we see that a man's job isn't primarily that "outside", but "inside" the home.
- You are the one who must understand the big picture, to encourage, motivate, and correct those under you to move in the direction of the ultimate goal. He is to accomplish those goals in a way that reflects the character of Christ in compassion, mercy, courage, boldness, and patience.
- We must understand, and be working toward the ultimate goal of seeing a family, wife, and children who glorify God
- Fathers, how are you preparing your son(s)? Seeing such men raised up doesn't happen by accident. It doesn't happen merely by our praying. We must be proactive. Indulging them with every comfort and game and allowing them to waste their lives will not fulfill the Lord's command.
- Single men, are you prepared or preparing for marriage? This is God's call of what you are to be. God's Word and Spirit is sufficient to equip you, but without them you will never be able to do this. Are you reading the Scriptures, are you being young men with a heart for God?
- ***Happy Father's Day*** – the greatest gift I can give you and your family is this.
- Brothers, in response we could curl up in despair and say "well, I could never do this." You can also try to discount these things by calling it old fashioned "Patriarchalism" or some other derogatory term. Nevertheless, God's Word stands.
- The Christ-magnifying alternative is to turn to the Lord with confession of utter inability, look to Christ for forgiveness for past failures, plead to him for future guidance, and strength and then by His grace become more of what He calls us to be.