



Is God in the House? *Men that Love*

by Thomas K. Burk

Ephesians 5:21-33

- (21) Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.
- (22) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
- (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.
- (24) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
- (25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- (26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
- (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- (29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
- (30) For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.
- (31) For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.
- (32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
- (33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

We are born males, but we have to become men.

- It's not a natural given thing. It's something you have to work at or struggle toward.
- Like the creation, you have to have a pattern after which you're modeling your Creator.
- The pattern for men is found:
 1. The written word—The Scriptures

2. The Living word—Jesus—He is the one who pioneered as the perfecter of our faith—the model

- The model to help us grow from our given gender to our God-called masculinity!
- Live up to the high calling of manhood.

Fortune Cookie

“Boys will be boys, and so will a lot of middle-aged men.”

Roman-Pagan-Greek thought have distorted the original plan of God for man.

- The Family of the primary sphere of spiritual activity in the Kingdom of God!
- The Family is the church.

The first order of ministry is in the home.

- If every man who claimed to trust Jesus for salvation would take seriously the Great Commission of [Matthew 28:19](#), there would be a revolution in the church.
- We must disciple our wives and children—our highest call!
- If we did our work of discipline at home, we wouldn't have to fret about going out and conquering the world. We would conquer it beginning at home.

[Genesis 1:26, 27](#) “Them”

- Women are anthropologically equal with men
- [Galatians 3:28](#) Women also have theological equality

[Genesis 2:18](#) “Help Meet” (Azar Knegdow)

- **One who's the exact counterpart of—the opposite of the other.**
- Has the connotation of spiritual and physical equality and adequacy
- If men don't recognize that the woman (wife) is created equal, and has spiritual equality, and thereby see them as more than just doing the laundry, cooking, or helping meet the bills, then not only does the wife stand opposite the husband, they also stand opposed to him.
- Such a scenario is no longer the opposite sex, but is in fact the opposing sex.

Hebrew for marriage is Kadoshene from the word Kadosh—Holy! Sanctified Set Apart

- Holy—Set apart from—from the ways of the world—partly true
- Holy—Set apart to—sanctioned from others to be for each other only

There is not higher calling for a man, than to be a godly husband and father.

- May not seem like much, but by practice virtually every man operates as though that weren't true.
- Money, prestige, career, power come before our higher calling.

Song: Cat in the Cradle by Harry Chapin says,

- “When you comin' home, Son? I don't know when, but we'll get together then, Dad. I know we'll be together then.”
- When this son said this to the father in this song, it was then that this father realized that his son had grown to be just like him. Why? Because this same lack of family time was exactly

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what the father had given to the son in this song. Now that he is no longer a small boy, his father finds that the lack of time he showed his son is now the same he is receiving from his grown son.

- How can you expect God to honor you in any further calling if you don't take your first calling, your family, serious?

The essence of marriage is a covenant

COVENANT: An agreement between two people or two groups that involves promises on the part of each to the other. The concept of covenant between God and His people is one of the most important theological truths of the Bible. By making a covenant with Abraham, God promised to bless His descendants and to make them His special people. Abraham, in return, was to remain faithful to God and to serve as a channel through which God's blessings could flow to the rest of the world <Gen. 12:1-3>. (*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary* Copyright (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

- In Jewish marriages, in which Jesus was accustomed, they wrote a marriage contract or agreement with each other.
- The first part of wedding was a **Kedoshene**— “Holy”
- The second part is **Nissuin**—from **Nasah**— “To lift up”
 - In *Fiddler on the Roof*, during the wedding ceremony, the bride and groom are lifted up in chairs and carried around. This is Nissuin
 - This is a message we need to hear because we live in a put down society.
 - Men are called to lift up their wives and their children!
 - Don't put them down to lift up yourselves, but humble yourselves to exalt them!
 - “Lift up” —encourage

Remember “They shall be one flesh,” One—ECHAD

- “Oneness” isn't “sameness.”
- She is an independent person—fully a person
- That which stands opposite of you (men)
- She has every right to encouragement in her God-calling, ministry, gifts, and motherhood.

A marriage is a partnership—equal partners with distinct functions.

- Not a corporation — The Man is the President and the Woman is the Vice President

Kedoshene—Speaks of the equality between the two in the holy covenant of marriage

Nissuin—Speaks of the commitment of mutual respect or humbling oneself so the other may be lifted up—Servanthood

[Ephesians 5:22, 23](#)

What does it mean to be a man or husband and to have authority in the home?

Ephesians 5:22, 23

- Don't abuse this
- Text out of context is pretext!
- Main theme here—Look at **Ephesians 5:1**— “imitators of God.”
- How to imitate in certain situations
- Maybe I should have started reading in **verse 21**: “Submit one to the other...” (*Azar Cognegdo*)

What does “Head of wife” mean?

- Doesn't mean you're the boss.
- Doesn't mean you're some superior hierarchy.
- Does mean “source of,” like the beginning of a river.
- See **Ephesians 4:15** From Him (Jesus) all are joined; or the source, provision, life-giver to the church.
- The Head of wife, family means you are the one responsible for them!
- You are the spiritual integrator for the family.

Ephesians 5:25 AS Christ!

- For a woman to submit isn't half as hard as it is for a man to love as Christ!
- The responsibility is on the men, not the women.
- It is an impossible stance in the natural, but through Jesus, “I can do all things through Christ,” it is available.
- Jesus gives us that which we need to nurture our wives' and families' needs.

How can you command someone to love is love is an emotion?—Agape—LOVE

1. Agape love indicates the nature of the love of God toward His beloved Son <John 17:26>, toward the human race generally <John 3:16; Rom. 5:8>, and toward those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ <John 14:21>.
2. Agape love conveys God's will to His children about their attitude toward one another. Love for one another was a proof to the world of true discipleship <John 13:34-35>.
3. Agape love also expresses the essential nature of God <1 John 4:8>. Love can be known only from the actions it prompts, as seen in God's love in the gift of His Son <1 John 4:9-10>. Love found its perfect expression in the Lord Jesus. Christian love is the fruit of the Spirit of Jesus in the believer <Gal. 5:22>. (*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*) (Copyright (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

I John 3:16 others—wife—family

- **Agape**
 - 1) Giving oneself wholly to
 - 2) A self-sacrificing action
 - 3) That which is noted for its costliness

Love is not an emotion, it is a commitment.

- A commitment characterized by self sacrifice and service.
- That's why we use Jesus' type of self sacrifice and service as the example!

So, love your wife, not with emotions or hormone responses, but by making. . .

- 1) Self sacrifices on her behalf.
- 2) Give yourself wholly unto her for her welfare
- 3) Give yourself even if it costs!

I John 3:18 The Lord can't command emotions, but He can command actions!

- Love is more than idle talk.
- Love is more than romantic sentiments.
- Love demands simple acts that meet the needs of others!

I John 5:3 This is love for God! Not feeling—thinking—but DOING!

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Do something with it.

Genesis 18 Abraham has chosen because he would teach God's truths to his children and household.

- Emunah /Faith (Faithfulness) in OT

Love is manifest in actions—doing.

- True love requires actions that may normally not be accompanied by feelings.

But there is a mystery here.

- If you commit to love, and because so begin loving your wife (husband) biblically, doing things for them, sacrificing for them, lowering yourself to lift them up, then you'll find the emotion of love following along like the caboose on a train!
- Commitment is the spark that rekindles old romances.

How we should make our choices

Romans 10:17 So then **faith cometh by **hearing**, and hearing by the **word of God**.**

- Facts—Faith—Feelings
- Usually we reverse if it feels good. We find faith so it must be fact!
- Biblically it's opposite.
- "I don't love my wife like I used to. . ." You've lost your feeling!
- By following the biblical concepts of true love, commitment to the covenant, you will find the feelings again!

Love is an act of faith—faithfulness/emunah

- What's needed in a difficult relationship is not giving your situation to God but giving yourself to God. Then He will use you to rectify the situation.

- Jesus' love wasn't just His sentimental feelings for us but his selfless action in His self sacrifice to bring us Shalom and salvation.
- What did your wedding vows mean to you?
 - For better for worse
 - In sickness and in health
 - For richer or poorer
 - 'Til death do us part
- It's more than keeping promises and being fair. It's a life decision to do that which God wills more than what you will.
- Almost all women stand by their men, but few men stand by their women.

Proverbs 12:25 "Anxiety"—heaviness

- Rabbis of Jesus' day taught that men should live beneath their means so they could support their wife above her means... i.e. lift her up!
 - Pray for her.
 - Pray with your wife.
 - Find opportunities to pronounce a blessing over your wife.
 - Every Sabbath the Jewish husband pronounces blessings on his children and on his wife. He also sings a song to his wife, in front of the children, that speaks of her great virtues.

Proverbs 31:10-31

- (10) Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.
- (11) The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
- (12) She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- (13) She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
- (14) She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
- (15) She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.
- (16) She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
- (17) She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
- (18) She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.
- (19) She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
- (20) She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
- (21) She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
- (22) She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
- (23) Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
- (24) She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
- (25) Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
- (26) She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
- (27) She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
- (28) Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.
- (29) Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
- (30) Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

(31) Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

- Ladies, would such a song from your husband lift you?
- Such a song is how the shepherds of the Middle East lead their sheep.
- It is also the same way that Jesus leads His people.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Isaiah 55:3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

- Isn't it amazing how the groom of the Church—Jesus—woes His bride by singing to her as well?

MEN

- Don't be a wimp. Don't wimp out at home.
- Don't be a kid at home. Emotionally, how old are you? Your wife isn't your mother!
- Don't be macho. Be yourself. Remember, we are nothing without God.
- Don't be absent all the time. Give you, to your home. It's your true success story!
- We must love the wife as Christ loves the Church.

What is Authority?

- Marriage is a partnership—biblically
- In the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), the officers are always having the highest mortality rate in battle because they are at the front rather than in the back of the battle. In Hebrew, there is no command for "Charge!" only for "Follow me!" These leaders don't send the troops, they lead the troops.
- Authority doesn't say, "Do what I say," but, "Do what I do."
- Let me show you by my example.
- Let me show you in your need.
- There is a war on the family—will you lead or follow behind their casual ties.
- If you lead by example, you will find your wife gratefully following in submission to your authority.
- The head of the family requires hard work and dedication. That's why many like the title but won't do the job description.

Joke:

The guy who went to a seminar and found out he was to be the head of his family. He went home and laid down the law to his wife that she was to submit or else. Sadly, he didn't see his wife for two weeks after that. Then one eye opened up just enough to get a peek of her!

To be the head of a family is servant leadership just like Jesus. True manhood is to love like Jesus loved.

Conclude:

- We are made in God's image.
- We are created by God with certain tendencies and traits.
- The essence of masculinity is to initiate order and create.
- The essence of femininity is to be responsive, sensitive, and caring.
- In Jewish tradition man is to be STRONG and courageous and yet also sensitive and caring.
- Cause in truth we have male and female characteristics within us.
- God created us this way, but the fall led to a distortion of our God-given tendencies.
- If we don't find our true identity in God we will worship "gods."
- Bob Dylan sang, "You've gotta serve somebody."
- Joshua asked the children of Israel, "Choose you this day who. . ."
- What happens to us, because of the old man, is we create creatures or created things.
- Our things (job, sports, etc. . .) give us our purpose instead of God.
- Paul Tillick defines "religion" as: "That which relates to man's ultimate concern."
 - From this we see that one can be very "religious" in a secular way and yet be offensive to God.
 - This tendency to imitate, order, and create can lead to a raw drive to possess power to feed our self respect.
 - This power drive can take place in a marriage—See [Ephesians 5](#) "I have authority."

The Solution:

- Be complete in Christ.
- It's a process of renewing of your mind, of seeking God to be like Him, a continual turning your heart around in repentance to let the old man, or self, die, so that the new man can live.
- You don't get your identity through things or through other men, sports stars, movie stars, or even the ministers of the Church; you get the identity of the true man that you were made to be from Jesus Christ!
- How one achieves this identity is by dying out to their old Adam nature, and then allowing the last Adam nature—Jesus' nature—to recreate them to become like Christ!
- It's good and right to have strong ministers in the Church. Their ultimate goal is to help make you a self-sufficient disciple of Christ who can seek, find, and follow Jesus.
- A Christian home should include shared respect, responsibility, and submission, which is characterized by listening to God and by following His lead to do everyday acts of agape love!
- Make the choice of being a man that leads like Jesus Leads, and that loves like Jesus loves!

Fortune Cookie

“If you would be loved, love and be lovable.”

A question that was presented to me when I was first married:

Q: Do you want your wife to obey you? Do you want her to be in submission to you?

A: Of course; that’s what the Bible says she must do!

Q: So you want her to follow your leadership?

A: Yes!

Q: Okay, what does the Bible say you must be to be the leader or the greatest in God’s kingdom?

A: Oh brother, I don’t want to answer that....

Q: What does the Word say?

Matthew 20:27-28 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: (28) Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Matthew 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Mark 9:35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

Mark 10:44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

Q: It says you must be the least of all, doesn’t it?

A: Yes....

Q: So then, if you want her to obey you, you must first serve her.

This is the key to leading a great home because it is what is required according to the Bible; to truly be a great leader, you must be a great servant! Men serve your wife and family and they will follow you.

Next Lesson: Is God in the House? Women that Love

Thomas K. Burk is an elder at Soul’s Harbor Apostolic Church, Manitowoc, WI, and Editor in Chief of OnTime Journal Ministries (www.ontimejournal.com). You can contact him for reprint or quote permission by mail at: 1137 N. 16th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220-2606; by phone at: 920.682.2524; or by email at: tkburk@ontimejournal.com