

## The Role of the Husband!

All the tools we have here are saws, but they aren't all for every cutting job. Each saw is used for a different job, ask any handyman. To do a proper job you must use the proper tool.

It's true with marriage as well. There are a lot of tools out there, but you really need the owner's manual, The Bible!

The next 5 weeks we will be looking at what the Bible says about marriage. The principles we learn aren't just limited to those who are married, it's Scripture and it will meet each one of us right where we live today.

But I must be honest, who am I to bring you this message series. I'm far from perfect and to be honest I have made far too many mistakes in my life. Now, please know that one of my guiding principles has been not to make the same mistake twice and that principle has served me well, but I am far from perfect. Satan has reminded me of that every day of my life.

So, I have asked that a perfect husband to come and speak these messages...and He has agreed. His name is Jesus and He has agreed to send His Holy Spirit to speak to us over these next several weeks...if we let Him.

You see, the only perfect husband is Jesus. Now some of you ladies are thinking, "That's right pastor!" But before we get too proud, we also must acknowledge that even the bride of Christ herself is imperfect.

To get started let's look at this slide that lists 5 of the main reasons for divorce:

1. Lack of family support.
2. Lack of love/intimacy.
3. Unrealistic expectations for your partner.
4. Communication problems/arguing.
5. Financial problems.

I will address one of these issues each week as we move through this series. Today we look at what the Bible says about the role of the husband, but again please know that whenever we examine Scripture God will reveal truths for all of us so even though today's message is on the role of the husband God has something for all of us. So, let's dive in!

There were three guys talking. Two of them are talking about the amount of control they have over their wives, while the third guy remains quiet. After a while one of the first two turns to the third and says, "Well, what about you, what sort of control do you have over your wife?"

The third fellow puffs out his chest and says, "Well, I'll tell you. Just the other night my wife came to me crawling on her hands and knees."

The first two guys were amazed! Their eyes are wide, and they have a newfound respect for this guy. "Wow! What happened then?" they asked.

The third fellow sighed and uttered, "She said, 'Get out from under that bed and fight like a man!'"

Ok, first think about your spouse. If the thoughts you are having are negative that is not the issue. That is your issue. Scripture teaches us to think in a different manner.

Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

If you focus on the negative, and we all have plenty of negatives that could be thought about, your heart will grow colder for that person.

If we think about what is pure and lovely and admirable our hearts will soften and grow us into a deeper level of love for our spouse. This principle applies to all our relationships.

Ask yourself what part of God's image they reflect. Think about that.

We hear a lot about toxic masculinity in our culture, and we want to blame culture for men not living out their role as God has designed them to live. Now, our culture doesn't help, but our culture isn't to blame.

Genesis 3 records the fall of mankind. Adam is to blame for stepping away from the role God gave to him and through Adam we all have drifted from what God designed us to be.

So, what does the Bible teach us to do as men?

1. Love your wife as Christ loves the church!

Ephesians 5:25-33, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the

washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

Men, we have one job regarding our wives, love them. Now, here is the hard part, we aren't the judge on how well we are loving our wives. No, our wives are the judge on how well we are doing on this. How would she say you are doing?

As I was putting this message together at this point, I thought to myself...oh boy am I in trouble here. But guys, I am speaking truth to you no matter how guilty

we may feel right now. If our wives don't feel loved, we are failing.

Make your wife feel loved!

One way we do this guys is we leave mom at home. That doesn't mean we don't honor our mothers, it means we elevate our wives over the place we have previously reserved for our moms.

Parents, when your children leave and marry, they have a new responsibility. Let them honor that responsibility by supporting them 100%. The question isn't whether you like the person they chose to marry; no one does! The question is whether you will support them or be a hinderance for them.

2. Lead with wisdom and humility!

1 Corinthians 11:3, “But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

Too often people look at this verse and only see the words “the head of the woman is man.” That is such a disservice to this passage. To live this verse out demonstrates great wisdom because men, it aligns us under the rule of Christ.

When we don't align with Christ's leadership it simply heaps guilt upon our heads because Christ Himself has aligned Himself under the leadership of God the Father. But us knuckleheads only want to point out that someone else aligns with us.

Men, if we expect to be the head in our relationship with our wives the model given us is Christ's submission to the Father. That is the mark to which we must strive. Our alignment is seeking Christ's leadership in our lives so that we can lead our wives in the same manner, with the same humility, with the same obedience.

### 3. Provide for the needs of the home!

1 Timothy 5:8, "Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Wow, that's pretty clear, isn't it? Now notice it says needs, not wants. We will look at more of this in our 5<sup>th</sup> message, but for now suffice it to say, men, we are the ones charged with being the provider.

God in creation demonstrated His work ethic, we must do the same.

### 4. Respect and honor your wife!

1 Peter 3:7, "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

This verse and those like it in the Bible were revolutionary for the cultures in which they were written. The reaction our culture has to submission grew out of the millennia of cultures that used submission as a club.

Peter and Paul, not to mention Jesus' own teachings, flip this on its head.

Does your wife feel that you are considerate? Does she feel respected?

Peter recognizes that men and women share in the gift of eternity equally and the love that we expect in the church toward one another includes men and women.

Ok, sometimes us guys are slow, so notice the warning Peter provides guys. If we aren't considerate and respectful of our wives, our prayers will be

hindered. How can we expect God to give us good gifts when we aren't giving our wives those same considerations.

#### 5. Be faithful in all areas!

Proverbs 5:18-20, "May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.

20 Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?"

Men, if we can't be faithful to the woman God has given us to protect, to provide for, to love, to respect, how can we be trusted as faithful in any other responsibility God give us?

This goes to the very core of our character.

Oh, by the way, even if we think it, Jesus said it is just like doing it. So, faithfulness not only includes the outer expression of unity, but it also includes the mental, our thoughts. Pornography steals our thoughts; it steals our faithfulness.

#### 6. Be patient & understanding with your wife!

Colossians 3:19, "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."

Once again, we are told to love our wives, but now Paul adds that we are not to be harsh with them.

Men, read:

Colossians 3:21, "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."

The idea here guys is that we treat our family, our wife and kids with kindness, warmth and love. If things aren't going well in your marriage this is where you should start.

Ask yourself, "Does my wife know that I love her based upon my actions, my tone of voice, my words?" Be honest, how are you doing on this?

#### 7. Be the spiritual leader of the home!

Joshua 24:15, "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods

of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Who will you choose for your household to follow? Will it be the Lord or will it be the gods of our society? Will you pursue the desires of your flesh or the will of God?

Men, we are called to be **Priest, Provider and Protector** for our wives. Will you step up to the challenge of serving well?

It is my desire that at the Log Church we will help men to:

1. Love our wives well.
2. Father our children in the way of the Lord.
3. Sharpen the men around us.
4. Love God with all our hearts.

How can we do that? Here are a few ways.

If you are new to being the leader in your house join Men’s Fraternity which will meet on Wednesday nights.

If you are feeling any bumps in your marriage, get into Re-Engage which also meets on Wednesday nights.

If you have been plugged into the church and feel things are going well, but you need a little help you can join a small group. Contact Pastor Mike to get connected to one.

Men, will you step into your role as leader of your home?

Ladies, will you let your man lead?