

Ephesians
More than a Makeover
What God Wants Husbands To Do
Ephesians 5:22-32

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / June 15, 2025

I. God Calls You To Lead Her Like Jesus Would

God holds the husband responsible for leading a healthy marriage. When God delegates authority to us, it's about responsibility and obligation, not oppression and domination.

When a marriage gets off track, God comes looking for the husband just like He did with Adam in the Garden.

Genesis 3:9 "But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'"

A. God Declared You To Be The Leader

Ephesians 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church; He Himself being the Savior of the body."

Because God is the Designer, He has the authority and wisdom to determine the roles and functions of every created being, including men and women. Make sure you understand that leadership is a matter of function, not worth.

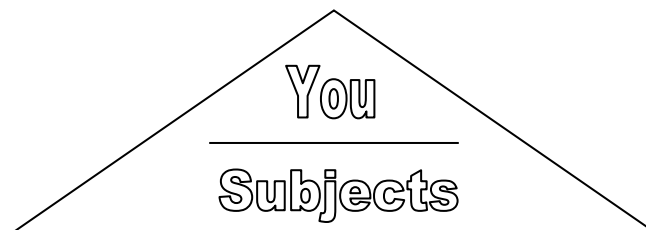
God choosing the husband to lead says absolutely nothing about the worth of the wife.

B. God Expects You To Lead Like Jesus

Matthew 20:25-28 "But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.'"

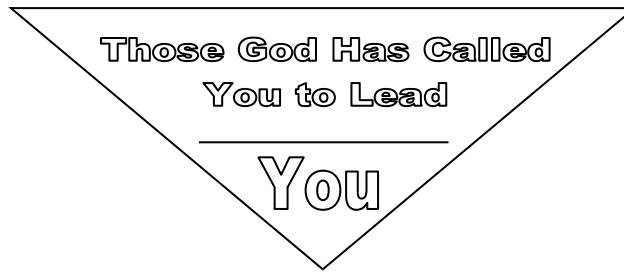
1. You're Not A Dictatorial Leader

When the world thinks about leadership, it usually thinks about how many people you have serving under you and how much power you have, because the focus is more on position and power over people around you.



2. You Are A Servant-Leader

The focus is on living with your wife and children in a way that serves them and helps them grow. It doesn't squelch them, and it certainly doesn't oppress them. It's an upside-down kingdom.



God calls the husband the head, but it's not "hyper-headship" that makes it all about you. You should not be a dictator, king, or tyrant in your home. The husband is a servant-leader.

Jesus set the tone for this.

John 13:3-5 "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."

God hasn't endowed husbands with privilege, He's entrusted them with the obligation to love, cherish, and shepherd their homes just like Jesus would because it's a call to die, not an opportunity to reign supreme.

II. God Calls You To Love Her Like Jesus Does

A. He Commands Us To Love Our Wives

Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her."

Ephesians 5:28 "So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies..."

Ephesians 5:33 "Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself..."

God repeats Himself like this because we do it so poorly and so infrequently. We have an incredible deficiency here. Most men have a huge lack of real, biblical love.

B. Biblical Love Is Far More Than A Feeling

Love is not first and foremost a feeling, it's a choice to do good for someone else, expecting nothing in return. The Bible can command us to love our enemies, because He's not talking about a feeling.

C. Biblical Love Is A Sacrificial God-Like Love

Our husband verses are filled with the word "agape," which is a strong, non-sexual affection that is characterized by a willingness to lay aside your own rights and privileges to give to the needs of another, expecting nothing in return.

Biblical, agape love is all about giving, which is why you can find the word love and give so often together in the Bible.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son...”

Ephesians 5:25 “...as Christ loved the church and **gave** Himself up for her.”

Galatians 2:20 “...the life I now live...I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and **gave** Himself for me.”

A man’s call to love means that his role as a husband is not passive, it’s active. They don’t just sit and get served. They don’t just stand and bark orders. They move towards their wives and family to love them in a way that is costly, tender, and attentive to their needs.

III. God Calls You To Learn Her

1 Peter 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.”

That phrase “live with your wives in an understanding way,” means get educated, get up to speed, and learn her because you don’t know her well enough. And when you don’t know her, you can’t lead her or love her well.

A. God Commands You To Learn Her

As a husband, you should be listening so well and watching so attentively that you begin to know your wife’s moods, feelings, needs, fears, hopes, and so much more.

If you don’t know her well, you’re not doing your job! God calls you to go to school on your wife for life! Keep learning and learning, and you’ll be able to love and lead so much better!

B. God Expects You To Make It A Top Priority

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 “I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord’s work and thinking how to please Him. ³³ But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. ³⁴ His interests are divided...”

The Message “I want you to live as free of complications as possible. When you’re unmarried, you’re free to concentrate on simply pleasing the Master. Marriage involves you in all the nuts and bolts of domestic life and in wanting to please your spouse, leading to so many more demands on your attention. The time and energy that married people spend on caring for and nurturing each other, the unmarried can spend in becoming whole and holy instruments of God.”

God says, “Just like you spend time on everything else you care about, spend time learning your wife.”

C. God Warns You What’s At Stake If You Don’t

1 Peter 3:7 “... so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

That word “hinder” was a Greek word that talked about an army throwing obstacles in the road or destroying bridges so that the opposing army can’t get through.

That’s what you’re doing to your prayers when you don’t learn and honor your wife.