

## HOW TO VIEW GOD'S ORDER OF LEADERSHIP

A. **All apostasy** (departure from Truth) is driven by a failure of leadership, & leadership begins in the home.

B. **We live in a culture** where the Creator's roles for men & women are under relentless attack.

1. We see roles that traditionally (even scripturally) belonged to men, going to women (and vice-versa).

a. However, society cannot change what God has ordained – and meet with His approval.

C. **We see churches** giving way to social pressures & appointing female leaders.

1. One might argue that the chief cause of female leadership (in the religious & secular world) is due to the failure of men to lead.

a. When men refuse to lead, then someone must lead (cf. **Judges 4, 5**)—this may not be the only reason for the modern role of women, but it is a contributing factor.

b. For example, many godly Christian wives are forced into roles of leadership in their homes simply because their husbands refuse to lead or have never had the training to lead.

D. **Male leaders**, whether in the church or home, have a great responsibility; because not only must they give an account to God for their own conduct, but also for the souls entrusted to their care.

---

**Isaiah 3:14-15 – The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders of His people & His princes: "For you have eaten up the vineyard..." (Ezek 8:11-13)**

**Jer 5:29-31 – "Shall I not punish them for these things?" [previous verses]** says the Lord. "Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this? 30 An astonishing & horrible thing has been committed in the land: 31 **The prophets prophesy falsely, & the priests rule by their own power,** & My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?"

**The selection process is a grave one. Heb 13:17 – Obey those who rule over you,** & be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who **must give account.** Let them do so with joy & not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (**Acts 20:26-32**)

---

[Those who seek to change the church into the image of the current culture know very well that a change of leadership must be the first priority!

What's the first thing we can do to prevent this?]

## I. GOD DEFINES TRUE LEADERSHIP

A. **God established** an order of leadership, a chain of command or authority, which traces back to His own authority, & is also answerable to His authority.

---

**1 Cor 11:3** – But I want you to know that **the head** of every man is Christ, **the head** of woman is man, & **the head** of Christ is God.

---

1. What does spiritual leadership look like?
  - a. It looks like the relationship that Christ has to the church, & which husband should have to his wife ([Eph 5:22-33](#)).

B. **There are several** other types of leaders, who carry God-given authority.

1. “Be subject to the governing auth’s” ([Rom 13:1-7](#)).
2. “Obey those who rule over you (elders), & be submissive” ([Heb 13:17](#)).
3. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor....” ([Eph 6:1-2](#)).
4. “Be obedient” to those who oversee your labor ([Eph 6:5](#)).
5. We are even taught to “submit to one another in the fear of God” ([Eph 5:21](#)).
  - a. To treat one another as we would treat Lord Himself.
  - b. It is an authority that can, but must not be, used for selfish purposes.

C. **A rebellious** disposition toward God’s chain of authority always ends badly ([Num 16](#); cf. [Eph 6:3](#)).

- a. We live in a culture that thinks submission & obedience makes you inferior or weak, an idea that has caused untold damage in the home & in the church. (Explain)

[But sometimes rebellion against authority is due to leaders who mismanage their authority.]

## II. HOW SHOULD A HUSBAND BE THE HEAD OF HIS HOME?

- A. **First**, he must determine to make “understanding” his wife a priority.

---

**1 Peter 3:7** – *Husbands*, likewise, *dwell with them* [your wives, i.e., one wife for each husband] *with understanding* [according to knowledge (KJV)], *giving honor* to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, & as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

---

1. Do you think Jesus (Husband & Head) understands us? Of course, He created us; the church is His fullness; we are members of His body, of His flesh & of His bones.

2. But we husbands don't have His power, so it's going to take us a lot of effort to “understand” the physical & emotional makeup of our wives.

- a. The word “understanding” (NKJV) is from the Greek root word “gnosis”, which means “a seeking to know, an inquiry, investigation”.

- b. This is where husbands, particularly new ones, should seek advice early in their marriage from older Christian couples.

- B. **Secondly**, husbands must “seek to know, inquire & investigate” how they can show the same kind of love for their wives that Christ has for the church.

---

**Eph 5:28-29** – So *husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies*; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but *nourishes* & *cherishes* it, just as the Lord does the church.

**CHERISH**: thalpo: "to keep warm," as of birds covering their young with their feathers; metaphorically, "to cherish with tender love, to foster with tender care" (Vine's). **NOURISH**: ektrepho; to rear up to maturity, i.e. to train (Strong's).

---

1. Before you ladies say, “Wait a minute, it’s my husband that need to mature; he’s the one that needs to be trained.”
  - a. Paul was not implying that all wives are immature, or that husbands have a right to train them up as their children.
  - b. Paul was commanding husbands to be mature leaders who evoke maturity in their wives.
  - c. A husband needs to understand that when he marries a wife then he has taken on the duty to help her mature as a godly, virtuous Christian woman; & the first step in doing that is to be a mature, godly, virtuous Christian man—*that you should have learned from your parents, & if you didn’t get a good example of it in your home, then you have some catching up to do.*
    - 1) A mature man will take responsibility for the physical needs of his family (1 Tim 5:8).

2) A godly man will lead his family in spiritual development, in worship & in showing humble reverence for God in all that he does (Gen 18:19; Deut 4:9-10; 6:1-7; 11:19; Psa 78:4-6; Eph 6:4; Col 3:21).

3) A virtuous man will abstain from the appearance of evil while doing the good works the Lord commands him to do for the sake of other (Matt 5:16; Eph 2:10; 1 Thess 5:22; Ti 2:7, 14; 3:8, 14; Heb 10:24; 1 Pet 2:12).

[Everything else we can say about the husband being the head of his home revolves around his “understanding, nourishing & cherishing” his wife & children.]

C. **Thirdly**, a husband should never degrade his wife by making her feel unimportant.

1. He should never make her feel that she only exist for his convenience & pleasure.

2. He should never to sink to the level of childishness in dealing with his wife: engaging in bickering, arguing, & shouting.
  - a. A husband may be able win an argument & force his will over his wife's desires or needs, but that's not spiritual leadership; that's not "nourishing" maturity in his wife.
3. In addition, when decisions need to be made that affect the family, a husband can "honor" his wife (1 Pet 3:7) by consulting with her on the matter.
  - a. They should both strive for an agreement on the final decision without making one feel like they've been boondoggled (or manipulated).

D. **Lastly**, a husband should put his wife's needs above His own.

1. That's what Jesus did for us during His life; He put our needs ahead of His own (Rom 15:1-3).

2. If a man sees that his wife is unhappy, hurting, & despondent, he should do everything he can to put her mind at ease.
  - a. He may need to change his habits, break away from something he enjoys doing in order to be more help to his wife
  - b. In extreme cases it may require a job change or moving to a different climate.
  - c. A husband cannot force his wife to submit to his life's ambitions, when it places too much of a burden or mental stress on her.

## CLOSING

A. **What does the headship** (leadership) of a husband have to do with the church?

1. When men are not proper leaders in their homes then local churches will fail in their mission.

B. **Women can have** a great influence in the church & in the Lord's work by fulfilling their God-given role (1 Pet 3:3-4; Eph 5:28), but when they go beyond that role, problems will develop (Jezebel & Ahab).

1. A woman who always challenges her husband's authority rather than showing him the proper respect & honor will ultimately destroy his ability to lead & be the head of his home.
  
2. In some churches, the business of the church is not settled until some of the men go home & speak to their wives.
  - a. The term "she-elder" rings true as a sad chime in many churches.
  
3. But when you find a congregation with a loving spirit, you will find godly women who support & encourage, not challenge or take over, the important work their husbands have to do as leaders in the home & in the church.