

Man as Head of The Woman

Subject: The Man IS the Head of the Wife By Rick Stanczak

It is imperative that men assume their God given appointments as leaders of their families and heads of their wives!

Eph.5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

So men are heads even as Christ is head of the church and SAVIOR of the body. Men being SAVIORS of their wives and families defines their headship.

What did our Savior do?

Eph.5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

He even suffered and sacrificed His very life for the church, while we were yet sinners. If we men are really true leaders and heads, we will likewise give our lives totally over to nurturing all the needs of our wives and families. Real men are real providers of every good thing -- physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually -- in the Lord.

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

The greatest husband and father will be serving his wife and family with all his being.

We could stop here as Christ-like leadership and headship is defined by all the examples and teachings of our Savior, and summarized above. However, let's look at the interpersonal relationship between husband and wife since this seems to be where things get skewed up. :)

Eph.5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

The first thing we see is mutual submission; wife to husband, and husband to wife.

Eph.5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Now we seem to see a contradiction to this mutual submission since only the wife's need for submission is mentioned next, but we already know that men were to love their wives so much that they were to give up their very lives just as Christ did. So the mutually submissive relationship is not contradicted.

One might ask these real world questions then:

What should the head do? Take the lead and LOVE.

What should the wife do? Respond to that loving leadership.

What if the husband is unloving? The wife's natural response would be not to look to that head. So what should the head do properly lead his wife? He should love her and serve her with all his might.

The woman was designed to respond affirmatively to loving kindness and affection. If men had the character of our Savior, what sane woman could resist it?

So should the man demand that his wife submit to him?

1Cor.13:5 [Love] Doth not behave itself unseemly, ***seeketh not her own***, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Love doesn't insist on getting your own way. Interesting...

Looks like husbands only have authority to serve, not to command. Since husbands are to *love* their wives (which will cause their wives to respond to their lead), then wouldn't you have to logically conclude that making authoritarian demands would have the opposite effect? My experience proves this to be so. ;-)

So what methods should be employed by either mate to help the other mate respond appropriately? The same ones Christ uses on each member of His church: loving examples and persuasion.

1Pet.2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Acts18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

God is not a tyrant. He is a merciful Father. Christ intercedes for us too on our behalf, since He already paid the full penalty for our sins. God doesn't give us what we deserve for our sins or we would all be dead many times over. He understands our frailties and forbears us as He leads us continually to repentance out of His great love for us. God never forces us to do anything. He always gives us a choice. Human life was designed with FREE MORAL AGENCY so that men could love. No love exists without free choice. We must respect the rights of all to even make the wrong choices, especially our spouses. Also remember that "vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." (Heb.10:30) So spouses should not think it is their job to correct their mates. The tools of love are example and persuasion.

Communication of our feelings and needs through words and deeds is vital in any relationship. We show God our faith by our works too. Silent oppression is not God's way. There are so many things that build functional relationships. (Do get Dave Antion's assertiveness tapes, and his Marriage course.)

In conclusion: Real men must take the lead by following the narrow path in Christ's footsteps and be the head of the wife in total self-sacrificing service to her!! (And what love she will return many times over.....)

Luke 22:25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Statement:

After the snake incident, the husband has been given leadership over the wife. the wife must know submit to her husband.

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. (KJV)

Rebuttal:

I see men *ruling* over women as part of the curse. Man would take advantage of the female's natural proclivity to look to a man's lead (as she was designed by God to do). Man would use his generally superior strength and callused insensitivity to act as a brutish beast asserting his dominion over women, along with each other. There are degrees of carnality, but taken to the extreme, men act like Neanderthal barbarians.

Statement:

When the tree of life was taken away women came under a physical rule by their husbands. Now that the holy spirit is given to women as well as men, has anything Changed?

Without the Holy Spirit, all act according to the flesh. Competition and conquering is the carnal way -- to lord it over like gentiles. You truly say that those led by the Spirit which is agape no longer are to be carnal at all. Yes, something is supposed to change.

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The Final Say

Statement:

We are to esteem each other better than ourselves. That includes serving our wives/sisters. THE HUSBAND IS NOT SUPERIOR TO OR THE MASTER OF HIS WIFE!!!! The one and only point that I am trying to make with all of these words is that God has placed someone to have the final say in heated disputes.

----- Rebuttal:

Just want to fine tune this concept you presented: "the final say."

I realize most believe there is such a thing in the realm of human relationships, but do we really mean this "final say" thing like a causal rule that applies in the laws of physics? We males naturally tend towards a task focus and want to universally apply our seemingly absolute logic (from our perspective anyway) to a given situation. In so doing we often deny freedom of choice by insisting on our own way. The individual only has "final say" over what *he* will do or think. Why do we seek to control others??

Just what right do any of us have to impose our will on another human being? A loving relationship allows for FREE CHOICE. Even if one is offering positive choices, human beings have the right to make their own choices -- even poor ones. Functional relationships respect self-determination.

We should encourage those around us to make good decisions. We should clearly convey the negative consequences of wrong choices. As individuals we can prudently choose to protect ourselves from the poor decisions of others which might even mean removing ourselves from given situations in extreme circumstances. However, if no reasonable solution or compromise to a given problem can be reached, each person in the relationship has the right to opt out of any decision.

Humans must define their boundaries and others must respect those boundaries. As soon as someone wrongly believes that they have the "final say" over any other human, one has begun to replace functional love with dysfunctional authoritarianism. "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still." One must do it from the heart, or the relationship will be destroyed.

Robots are controlled. Humans were created to be motivated by love.

There are ultimate consequences -- even the second death -- but that is one's own choice.

Deut.30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

....forbearance is needed by both partners, but no one is obliged to submit to perpetual unloving attitudes, which leads to abuse. Assertiveness doesn't mean never compromising or willingly subjecting oneself, but neither should one ever coerce the other (not act in agape-love).

Phil.2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. [This is no gender exception for husbands over wives. "In the Lord" there is only cooperation and consent.]

I'll go even further to say that those attributes generally ascribed to natural female sensitivity are very reflective of many of the fruits of the Spirit. The man must remember to love his wife or he will cut himself off from those fruits.

Gal.5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Col.3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;

1Pet.3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous

Eph.4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

In this way the man was directed to look to the woman. That's why we are to submit ourselves one to another. The further gender specific descriptions as to how are indicative of the natural weakness due

to man's carnality. The man is not naturally loving, and it hurts the female to expose her heart to insensitive unloving attitudes and deeds. We must forgive and tolerate each other as we help each other grow.

Statement:

Even when you have a man who is nurturing and giving himself to the marriage and family, sometimes he can have a strong willed wife that doesn't naturally look to her husband. Maybe she's been raised to think on her own and be independent, and when a interdependent relationship develops, she can't yield to her husband, then what?.....

What do people do then who are in these kinds of situations?

-----Answer:

Time to communicate. Time to explain your feelings and observations. Time to build understanding. This is assertion, not abrasiveness. Neither spouse should allow the other to misuse or abuse them. Each spouse has a right to their own boundaries. The other can cross over by consent only. Neither spouse has any right to force themselves on the other. These things need to be understood and respected. Trust that ensues with love promotes sharing which is intimacy. We all need intimacy, but we often stomp on the opportunity by demanding it. ----

Statement:

It seems even in the Churches of God that women are either floor mats who endure tremendous hardship and abuse, or usurp the role of the man as the leader trying to exercise her will over the man. Men either try to control everything in the household affairs leading bulldozer style, or they let their wives do whatever they want taking a subservient role to their wives.

----- Answer:

Oh yes, this is the sad truth. Our CG heritage really did very little to promote relationships. It did build functions which tended to destroy intimacy. There were fundamental flaws in our training in this area, the biggest being the assertion of male authoritarianism. Much of our CG experience was dysfunctional, including family life. So many of us came from poor backgrounds anyway, which made it even more difficult to constructively change. It was truly the blind leading the blind in relationships.

Statement:

I guess what I'm asking is: Does the "head" EVER "rule" over the family and make the decisions? If so, how, when it will certainly be seen as an act of abusiveness? If not, then how is he truly the head? Christ, who is the head, will certainly rule over the body. Accordingly, does the wife ever "usurp" the authority because it's not being handled correctly? If so, how, when it's going to be obvious that she's not submitting to her head? Any practical answers to these?

-----Answers:

Marriage is a partnership, joint ownership, a sharing relationship. Individual spouses still maintain their own identity. The marriage relationship is a new joint identity. Each decides what they will contribute to the joint identity.

We need to strive for joint decisions where neither tries to impose their own will and each is concerned for the needs of the other. We are neutral about most issues and these aren't a problem. However,

when there are strong feelings or convictions, these differences need to be communicated with deep love and respect. Feelings need to be shared. Usually compromises or accommodations can be worked out if the couple really loves each other. On those differences that are still strongly held, couples must agree to disagree peacefully. We must accept our mate as they are, as they define it.

In extreme circumstances, asserting one's boundaries may require separation if the behavior is really heinous. For instance, unrepented adultery, molestation, or abuse is beyond what any spouse should endure. The spouse may have to separate to ensure their boundary is not violated. Hopefully wise counseling and heartfelt repentance can improve the situation. Now even this extreme case of separation is done out of love. It certainly isn't helping either spouse or the rest of the family to contribute to such reprehensible behavior by continuing the circumstances.

I should have mentioned long ago that love is unconditional. Controlling your spouse is not respecting their unique person. It is crashing their rightful boundaries. Our love, respect and affection is NOT predicated upon our spouse doing anything for us. ***If you love somebody, you let them do what they want.*** The more unconditional love you give (while asserting your boundaries), the more likelihood your spouse will trust her heart to you and be inclined to share it with you. With trust comes security and intimacy. Mutual love flows from intimacy. Intimacy IS your relationship. The rolls you perform are just your functions.

If you just function in your marriage, I can guarantee you that your level of intimacy is nil -- and your relationship doesn't exist. Women feel this hurt more than men usually, like the canaries in the mine shaft sense poison air. Men usually just feel empty but really can't put their finger on what is wrong since men are naturally more task oriented. Couples have to talk about their problems, not bury them. They have to provide each other with a secure environment of unconditional love that can build the trust to resolve or at least understand differences.

Conflict is much more distressing for men, so men tend to avoid needful relationship building communication. Under the male authoritarian model, men would justify themselves to decide whatever without even considering their mates opposing views because the man mistakenly thought that being the head was in total control of all decisions and having dominion over his wife. Not only do we not understand relationship building, we resist the knowledge. When family matters go awry, most men react aggressively or passively-aggressively, either attacking the wife or ignoring the wife; and women, in their frustration, try to take over and force sometimes drastic solutions, with separation, divorce, etc. In the alpha and the omega, individual submission to Christ first is the only foundation.

A key is: He who will be greatest among you shall be the greatest at serving.
Self-sacrificial love (and CONCOMITANT submission) is what agape is all about.

Our mates are the highest priority after God, converted or unconverted.

For example: We have a need for close relationships with brethren even when one has an unconverted mate. However, I see it as a boundary issue.

All relationships thrive on communication and mutual love with respect.

As boundaries are asserted, we define his and hers; then with understanding and mutual submission, intimacy builds OURs. The more OURs, the better the relationship. Still though, we must respect each person's individual identity as well. So applying this to the woman with the unconverted mate, she needs to kindly assert her need to fellowship with the brethren, and the husband should unconditionally

love and respect, even encourage her to do what she needs to do. She should support him likewise in those personal things he needs to do. Fellowship with the brethren just isn't a big part of their OURs identity.

Oh, a couple of other tidbits: If you (figuratively) speak too loudly your spouse won't hear you. Meaning, have a gentle attitude and don't vent hostility while trying to assert your boundaries. Aggressive behavior doesn't achieve the desired comfort for intimacy either. And guys need to get in touch with their feminine side. Men to be genuinely sensitive in spite of this macho culture. Physiologically, it is more difficult for men to get in touch with their feelings, so they must consciously try. Being close to a woman can really help you find and experience your feelings.

Without feelings, life is mechanical. Now I wonder what we take with us into the resurrection? Hint, its not our bodies or our functions. :)

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Ez. 9:4, John 9:35, Isa.66:5, Rev.12:17; 14:12 Likeminds' Home Page --
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