BIBLE STUDY

The Role of Husbands

Christlike leadership in Ephesians 5

EPHESIANS 5:21–33

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

The passage begins with reverence, not rank

21

Mutual submission

The household posture starts with reverence for Christ.

25–27

Christ gives Himself

Leadership takes the shape of costly, cleansing love.

28–29

Nourish and cherish

A husband treats his wife’s good as inseparable from his own.

33

Love and respect

The relationship is marked by active love and honored respect.

The movement of the text: from shared reverence to self-giving responsibility.

Headship is not dominance—or passivity

DOMINANCE

POWER

Self-assertion
Control
Entitlement

THE CHRISTLIKE WAY

LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE

Serve first • accept responsibility • move toward what is hard

PASSIVITY

ABSENCE

Detachment
Delay
Avoided responsibility

When culture hears "headship" or "authority" in marriage, what images come to mind?

Headship looks like a cross, not a throne

NOT

authoritarian rule
status without sacrifice
passive disengagement

CHRISTLIKE HEADSHIP

Rejects	passivity
Embraces	service
Accepts	responsibility
Leads	courageously

Servant authority seeks her protection, flourishing, and holiness.

Leadership begins by going first

01—05

INITIATE

**The pattern is not perfection.
It is faithful first movement.**

1	**Keep leading**	Initiate service, repair, and counsel—even when attempts go poorly.
2	**Stay alert**	Notice needs early and act to keep blessing flowing through the home.
3	**Own spiritual responsibility**	Cultivate your walk with Christ, then lead in prayer and discipleship.
4	**Apologize first**	Own your full portion of conflict: “I’m sorry. Please forgive me.”
5	**Open the interior life**	Dismantle emotional walls; let your wife and children know you.

Understanding turns authority into partnership

Study her unique wiring, needs, and ways of receiving love.

Seek her counsel—and freely yield in matters of preference.

UNDERSTAND

Praise her character, beauty, and accomplishments—privately and publicly.

Pray with her and for her as a consistent household rhythm.

Make room for her gifts and growth

Time, space, encouragement, and resources communicate partnership.

Provision is stewardship of the whole household

SHARE	**Household work**	Discuss responsibilities and distribute them equitably according to gifts and capacity.
STEWARD	**Financial stability**	Provide for basic needs, consult on major decisions, and resist harmful debt.
SECURE	**Long-horizon integrity**	Prepare a will and plans for the children—and follow through when commitments become costly.

Security is emotional and practical: shared labor, wise money, prepared plans, kept promises.

Intentional families are built before pressure arrives

1

Anticipate stages

Prepare for childhood, adolescence, and launching.

2

Manage the pace

See pressure points and guard the family calendar.

3

Remove distractions

Set aside screens, sports, and work for attention.

4

Create traditions

Initiate regular fun and meaningful shared memories.

5

Establish values

Name a biblically supportable family purpose and mission.

6

Teach life skills

Build confidence through budgeting, maintenance, and work ethic.

7

Teach biblical sexuality

Explain God’s design before culture and digital media define it.

THE INTEGRATED PATTERN

Four arenas. One posture.

INITIATE

Repair • prayer • emotional openness

UNDERSTAND

Counsel • affirmation • room to grow



PROVIDE

Shared work • financial wisdom • kept promises

FORM

Values • attention • skills • healthy teaching

The categories change. The posture does not.

Grace keeps a husband from leading alone

01

BROTHERS

Join a discipleship group of men. Let brothers sharpen you as husband and father.

02

HELP

Ask mentors, counselors, or church leaders early—before stubbornness deepens the rut.

03

BEGIN AGAIN

When you fall short, repent, receive the grace of Jesus, and keep starting over.

Isolation magnifies weakness. Grace practiced in community turns failure into formation.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

Choose one faithful next step

01

Contrasting models

How does Ephesians 5 redefine authority compared with common cultural stereotypes?

02

Taking the first step

Where is initiation hardest: apologizing, spiritual leadership, or household logistics—and why?

03

Practice this week

Which one or two practices would make the most immediate difference in your home?

THIS WEEK

Name the practice. Name the first action. Invite accountability.

Ephesians 5:21–33 • Christlike leadership is practiced, not merely discussed.

BIBLE STUDY • PART TWO

The Biblical Role of Wives

God's design, calling, and character

EPHESIANS 5 • 1 PETER 3 • TITUS 2 • PROVERBS 31

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

Submission begins under Christ—not beneath a husband

21

Mutual reverence

The starting posture is shared humility under the lordship of Christ.

22

As unto the Lord

Yielding is worshipful trust in God—not mere deference to a man.

23–24

Church-shaped response

A wife willingly honors and responds to sacrificial, Christlike leadership.

33

Respect

Honor, revere, and value her husband as love and respect reinforce one another.

Biblical submission is a Godward act of spiritual strength within a covenant of mutual reverence.

A quiet witness is neither silent nor weak

01

CONDUCT

Win without a word

Pure, reverent, respectful conduct can reach even a husband who resists the Word.

02

CHARACTER

Cultivate imperishable beauty

A gentle and quiet spirit gives priority to enduring inner formation over fleeting adornment.

03

COURAGE

Hope in God without fear

Holy women act faithfully from trust in God—not intimidation, anxiety, or coercion.

The emphasis is not invisibility. It is visible faith expressed through steady character.

Titus 2 forms strength through relationship

OLDER WOMEN

Model and teach younger wives how to thrive in faith, marriage, and character.

Formation is passed on through embodied wisdom—not isolated ideals.

1. **LOVE** husbands and children with deep affection and committed presence
2. **PRACTICE** self-control, sensible judgment, and moral purity
3. **CULTIVATE** the home through diligent care and practical kindness
4. **HONOR** a husband's leadership so the credibility of God's Word is upheld

Titus 2 joins doctrine to daily life through affection, discipline, care, and honor.

Proverbs 31 portrays an active, trusted partner

TRUST	Her husband has confidence in her; she actively brings good, not harm.
BUILD	She manages, works, creates, trades, and provides with initiative.
GIVE	She reaches toward the poor and extends help to those in need.
SPEAK	Wisdom and faithful kindness shape her words and teaching.
FEAR THE LORD	Her highest honor is Godward character—not charm or fading beauty.

The portrait is competent, generous, industrious, wise—and worthy of praise.

Every marital role belongs under Christ

Colossians 3:18

FITTING IN THE LORD

Marital order is framed inside Christian discipleship, never outside it.

1 Corinthians 7:3–5

RECIPROCAL DEVOTION

Neither spouse exercises unilateral control; both practice mutual authority and conjugal care.

1 Corinthians 7:10–13

STEADFAST COVENANT

Faithfulness endures even in spiritually mixed marriages, carrying sanctifying grace into the home.

Submission and mutuality are not rivals: both place self-interest beneath covenant love.

Order under Christ • reciprocal care • enduring faithfulness

THE INTEGRATED PORTRAIT

Biblical womanhood is active and Godward

NOT

inferiority
passivity
fear-driven
compliance

TRUSTS	God above fear
RESPECTS	with willing honor
BUILDS	home and community
SERVES	through reciprocal love
SPEAKS	wisdom with kindness

Her strength is covenantal: rooted in Christ, expressed in character, and active in the world.