

Spiritual Leadership

For a man, what are the basic ground rules for Spiritual Leadership in the home?

Colossians 3:18-25 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Apostle Paul and Timothy (author)

Family Relations

¹⁸ Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

²⁰ Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

²² Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Now let's dive a little deeper....

Ephesians 5:22-33 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Apostle Paul (author)

Marriage Like Christ and the Church

²² Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.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.

²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

Now this is where most of us men like to stop reading.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,³⁰ because we are members of His body.

³¹ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

So what does it mean when Paul instructs us:

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

Let's find out...

Philippians 2:1-11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Apostle Paul (author)

Be Like Christ

2 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, **2** make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So Christ Jesus Himself did not “strive” to appear to be equal with God

So why do so many of us men who serve in the church push our wives and our children aside and not give them our time and attention?

Is it really because the work of God is so much more important and they, must take a back seat and understand we are serving God!

What type of man should be serving as a deacon in the church?

Let's once again look to scripture for the answer.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Apostle Paul (author)

Overseers and Deacons

3 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

So why is it important for us to learn how to serve those in our own household
(namely our wife and children)
before we serve those in the church?

So now, how do we accomplish this task?

1 Peter 3:7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Apostle Peter (author)

Godly Living

⁷ You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Ok, this is great!

But can anyone tell me what
“live with *your wives* in an understanding way”
Actually looks like, from day to day, in practice?

Do any of us really understand our wife's?

Perhaps, once again, scripture can shed some light on this for us.

Genesis 3:8-19 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Moses (author)

The Fall of Man

8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
Cursed are you more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you will go,
And dust you will eat
All the days of your life;

15

And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

16

To the woman He said,
“I will greatly multiply
Your pain in childbirth,
In pain you will bring forth children;
Yet your desire (**t̄šuqāh**) will be for your husband,
And he will rule over you.”

Now does anyone have any idea what this means?
“Yet your desire (**t̄šuqāh**) will be for your husband,”
How is this a consequence for disobedience?

We'll get back to that question.
Let's look at the ramifications of letting our wives'
take the spiritual leadership role in our household.

17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’;

Cursed is the ground because of you;
In toil you will eat of it
All the days of your life.

18

“Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;
And you will eat the plants of the field;

19

By the sweat of your face
You will eat bread,
Till you return to the ground,
Because from it you were taken;
For you are dust,
And to dust you shall return.”

Pretty harsh consequences for letting our wives' “take charge”
where God has ordained us to stand.

So let's get back to the prior question...
How is our wives' “desiring us” a consequence for disobedience?

Once again, we have to look to scripture for the answer right in the very next chapter.

Genesis 4:1-8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Moses (author)

Cain and Abel

4 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with the help of the Lord.”

2 Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground.

4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions.

And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering;

5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard.

So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?

7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire (**t^ešuqāh**) is for you, but you must master it.”

8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

This is the only other time that this word is used in the Old Testament.

This word desire (**t^ešuqāh**) takes on a whole new meaning now, doesn't it?

Now knowing what God meant in Genesis 3:16
Is this not a universal truth?

So when Peter instructs us to live with our wives' in an understanding way, do you think he had this passage in mind?

So knowing what we now know and the devastating results of disobedience to Christ in this area of Spiritual Leadership in our home, do you think we should rise up to fill this role?

Need another story that ended in disastrous results when a man subjugated his Spiritual Leadership role to his wife?

Remember the story of Abram, Sarai and Sarai's Egyptian maid servant Hagar?

Genesis 16:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

Sarai, Hagar and Ishmael

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maid servant whose name was Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her."

And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

3 Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. 4 So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

