

Job Description of a Husband pt. 2

In 1984, Foreigner hit #1 on the music charts by asking “I Want to Know What Love Is?” Ironically, if you want to know what love really is, songs on the radio are the worst place to look. Popular music is an endless source of stupid lyrics and bad ideas about love.

MacArthur Park, which has been a hit for three different artists, offers this stunning metaphor for love which would make any middle school poetry student cringe:

MacArthur's Park is melting in the dark
 All the sweet green icing flowing down
 Someone left the cake out in the rain
 I don't think that I can take it
 'Cause it took so long to bake it
 And I'll never have that recipe again

The turtles sang these moving lyrics, “Elenore, gee I think you’re swell. And you really do me well. You’re my pride and joy, et cetera. Nothing says love like the word “et cetera.” Some of the dumbest lyrics of all time come from rap and hip hop, most of which I can’t quote in a sermon, but there is this little nugget from R. Kelly, “You remind me of something. I just can’t think of what it is. You remind me of my Jeep.” Every girl wants to be compared to an SUV.

Jim Morrison had to have been stoned when penned this remarkably insightful line, “Hello, I love you. Won’t you tell me your name?” I think he has love confused with something else, but that could be said about most of these songs. I’m a fan of U2, but Bono wrote a real clunker when he wrote, “Freedom has a scent. Like the top of a newborn baby’s head.” What?

Of course, no one knows bad love song lyrics like the singer of love gone bad, Taylor Swift. She’s given us gems like “Loving him is like driving a new Maserati down a dead-end street” We all know how hard it is to make three-point turns in relationships. Or this “cause you were Romeo – I was a scarlet letter. And my daddy said: “Stay away from Juliet.” I think she’s confused two different stories from her English Lit class and about which character she’s supposed to be. And one more, “I miss screaming and fighting and kissing in the rain.” Taylor finally finds a guy who is nice and opens doors for her, but she misses their fighting and screaming. No wonder none of her relationships work out.

There are a lot of confusing messages about what love really is. We use the word love to describe so many different things. I love a good steak. I love Nascar. I love a good U2 album. I love my children, and I love my wife. But loving my wife and loving a 1-inch thick, medium rare ribeye are two very different things. Aren't they? If I'm going to really love my wife, then I need to know what that means.

This morning we are continuing to look at how a husband can really love his wife, and Scripture does give us a clear picture of what this kind of love looks like. Unfortunately, this kind of love runs contrary to what we so often see in the world. So we learn to love while we are surrounded by all kinds of confusing messages and models about what love is.

Eph 5:22-33

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Scripture gives husbands at least four ways they can really love their wives. We looked at the first two a couple of weeks ago. A husband is to be...

I. Provider

II. Protector

Jesus is our model for these things. As the church, we are the bride of Christ and he provides for us. He protects us. If you missed that message and would like to hear about these two very important roles of the husband, just go to our website, www.son-risechristian.net, and you can find the past sermons there.

III. Leader (Ephesians 5:23-24)

A husband is to be a provider. He is to be a protector. Thirdly, he is to be a leader. Eph 5:23 says, *“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.”* Of all the things that Bible says about the role of the husband, nothing has been more controversial, abused, or misunderstood as the role of headship.

There is no doubt that God has called men to be the head of the family. Robert Lewis and William Hendricks write of this passage in their book *Rocking the Roles*, *“This passage is not hard to understand, is it? Not really. It may be hard to swallow by today’s standards, or hard to work out in real life. But it’s not hard to understand.”*

In fact, this passage is so clear, that those who deny it, but still profess to be Christians have had to go to great lengths to escape it. They go through all sorts of interpretive gymnastics to make this passage say something other than what it says.

However, the Greek scholars are in agreement. This passage means exactly what it appears to mean. Head means head. The word used here means a literal head, but when used in reference to relationships, it communicates the idea of leadership, authority and responsibility. Greeks used it to refer to tribal chiefs, military commanders, and political leaders. There is no doubt that Paul has leadership in mind.

However, the kind of headship or leadership that Paul has in mind has to be understood in light of all that he says in this passage. You can’t rip this sentence out of the context of this passage and read into it your own definition of leadership. This passage makes it very clear that the kind of leadership Paul had in mind was very different from what we usually see in the world. The leadership of husband is to be based on the example of Jesus himself. The husband is the head of the wife, Paul says just like what? Just like Christ is the head of the church.

What kind of leader is Jesus? He is not selfish, domineering or oppressive. Jesus was a servant-leader. Just what kind of leadership did Jesus teach?

Matt 20:25-28

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

That's the kind of leadership that we as husbands are called to. We are to be loving leaders not lording leaders. We aim to serve our wives, not just have them serve us. We want what is best for them, not just what we want for ourselves.

Domineering leadership is not a part of God's design for the home. Rather it is one of the results of sin in our lives. In Genesis 3, after the first sin of Adam and Eve God is explaining the consequences of sin. In verse 16 God tells Eve that one of the consequences for her was this, "*Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.*" This was a consequence of their sin, not a part of God's created design. This is not what we are to live out in the Christian home, a home defined by Jesus' redeeming love.

The headship of a loving leader needs to be defined by terms such as caring, guiding, developing, sacrificing, understanding, listening, strengthening, building, mentoring, and serving rather than the harsh tones of overbearing leaders: ruling, presiding, bossing, demanding, ordering, manipulating, and intimidating.

Now what does this mean in practical terms? Robert Lewis and William Hendricks point out in their book *Rocking the Roles* that the lording leader loves to give out orders. He's the boss. He has to have control. He makes all the decisions; everyone else just carries out his directives. Things get done his way.

There is no flexibility with the lording leader, even when he is obviously wrong. "Let's eat Mexican food tonight," he says. "The kids and I had Mexican for lunch," his wife replies. "What about that new Italian restaurant?" "We're going out for Mexican food and that's final!" He insists.

Discussion is always a threat to the lording leader. A loving leader, however, wants to understand the needs and desires of his wife and family. He welcomes discussion. He seeks to hear what others feel and think. He's open to alternatives. A loving leader does often take the initiative, but in setting the direction for the family, he carefully considers how each choice will affect each member of his family. I really would encourage you to Read Lewis' and Hendricks book if you would like to learn more about this.

IV. Lover (Ephesians 5:25)

So if a husband wants to really love his wife He will be a provider, a protector, a leader, and finally He will be her lover. It might seem easier if God had left the definition up to us of what it means to be our wife's lover. But he didn't, Eph 5:28-31 spells out the kind of lover we are to be"

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

In verse 29 Paul uses two specific words to describe our love. The NIV translates them as "feed" and "care" Let's look at these a little more closely. The Greek word for "feed" means to nourish, nurture and strengthen. The word for "care" literally means to keep warm. The Greeks used it much the same way as we use the word "cherish."

Being a lover by the world's standards is usually very selfish. It is focused on what you do for me. How you make me feel. It is based on what I get out of it. That is how too many husbands approach their relationship with their wives. As long as she makes me feel good, as long as I get pleasure out of it, as long as you float my boat and spark my wires, I will love you.

So what kind of lover are we to be? A lover that seeks her joy, her pleasure, and her happiness. But here is the genius of God's design. Paul says that whatever you do for her, you ultimately do for whom? Yourself. Guys, everything you do to enhance your wife's pleasure, your wife's joy, your wife's contentment all comes back to you. You make your wife happy, you make yourself happy.

However, if you seek only your own pleasure and happiness, you will rob your wife of hers, and ultimately you will end up denying yourself. What you deny her, you deny yourself. How can Paul say this? It is all based on the creation of Adam and Eve.

After God created Eve and presented her to Adam he made this inspired pronouncement that Paul quotes here, "*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh* (Genesis 2:24)." A husband and wife are made one. Jesus himself said that God has joined them together. So what the husband does for the wife, he does for himself.

This whole idea of being one flesh, on which Paul bases his teaching, has a strong physical and sexual component. Now we need to be appropriate and proper here, but

obviously our sexuality is a crucial component of any marriage, and I want to discuss that a little bit this morning. Everything I'm saying here about being a lover applies both in and out of the bedroom.

Several years ago Josh McDowell's ministry did a lot of in depth research into sexuality and marriage to find out what kind of role it played in making for a happy marriage. I just love his statement. He said their research showed that of all the different factors that impacted a marriage, sex was only 12%...but what a 12%. Now I don't think there's anything scientific about that percentage. It might be 12. It might be 20. It might be 40. The point is that sexual love is only a part of what makes a marriage work.

Let me show you something. The Greeks used 4 different words for love where we use only 1.

Eros – Erotic, sexual desire. Physical intimacy. Sensuous.

Storge – family love. Blood is thicker than water. Parent/child. Tenderness.

Phileo – brotherly love. Friendship. Affection and shared interest

Agape – This was the Christian word for love. It is unconditional love. It is not based at all on what you do for me or what I get out of it. It is a decision of the will. It is a commitment. I will love you no matter what you do for me.

Now a healthy marriage involves all of these types of love, but a lasting, fulfilling, healthy, happy marriage requires that they are in the right order. Here is what we usually find in the world.

Storge

Phileo

Eros

Here, however, is God's design

Eros

Storge

Phileo

Agape

Conclusion:

25 Ways to be a servant leader from Lewis and Hendricks, pg. 69

1. Includes his wife in envisioning the future
2. Accepts spiritual responsibility for his family
3. Is willing to say "I'm sorry" and "Forgive me" to his family.
4. Discusses household responsibilities with his wife and makes sure they are fairly distributed

5. Seeks the consultation of his wife on all major financial decisions
6. Follows through with commitments he has made to his wife
7. Anticipates the different seasons his marriage will pass through
8. Anticipates the different stages his children will pass through
9. Frequently tells his wife what he likes about her
10. Provides financially for his family's basic living expenses
11. Deals with distractions so he can talk with his wife and family
12. Prays with his wife on a regular basis
13. Initiates meaningful family traditions
14. Plans fun outings for the family on a regular basis
15. Takes the time to give his children practical instruction about life, which in turn gives them confidence with their peers
16. Manages the schedule of the home and anticipates any pressure points
17. Keeps his family financially sound and out of harmful debt
18. Makes sure he and his wife have drawn up a will and arranged a well-conceived plan for their children in case of death
19. Lets his wife and children into the interior of his life
20. Honors his wife often in public
21. Explains sex to each child in a way that gives them a wholesome perspective
22. Encourages his wife to grow as an individual
23. Takes the lead in establishing with his wife sound, biblically-supportable family values
24. Joins a small group of men who are dedicated to improving their skills as a man, husband, and father.
25. Provides time for his wife to pursue her own personal interests.