

TEACHING NOTES (underlined words indicate answers for the handout)

## Becoming the Biblical Head of Your Home

### INTRODUCTION

1. I am very excited about this session – it will give clear Biblical understanding about what it means to be the head of the home.

If you asked 5 different men – 5 different answers.

Maybe you picture yourself as the head of the UNIVERSE and your wife is there faithfully serving you.

When we discuss the head it often brings about specific questions like what is the man supposed to do as the head?

Why is the man the head?

How do you define the role of the head?

How do you imagine the man as head?

2. To understand our culture concerning the head we need to look back over the last three generations and see what has transpired in the home.

Let's look at my father's generation, my generation, and my son's generation.

a. When you go back to my father's generation you see very clearly that the young boys were raised by their fathers.

They lived in the country, perhaps were farmers, and together they did things around the house or farm to make a living.

b. The next generation, my generation, were raised by the mother.

Watch what happened. They moved to town. The father got a job he had to get up early to go to and they left their sons at home. He worked long hours since he had a lot of mouths to feed and did not get home until late.

At this generation the sons did not belong at work whereas at the generation before they did. It was the man thing to go to work and the woman thing was to stay home with the family.

There was a line drawn. The role between the husband and the wife was a real clear line.

Guess who raised my generation of men? THE MOTHER. We need to understand that mothers raise boys differently than do fathers. You can really see this when a mother is afraid for her son to climb a tree for fear he may fall and get hurt. Whereas the father would reply, "He won't die, he's a boy."

c. Then came my son's generation and it became a blur as to whose role it was to do what and what was it like to be a man.

This generation is being raised by child care. This generation is different because both mom and dad leave the home for work and the children are raised by child care. So who is left to raise the boys to be the man's man in the home?

We take our children down to the corner at the building where so many other parents bring their children every morning to stay.

They are watched mostly by single people, some divorced, some with Christian principles, and some with no principles. The main goal of the day care is to watch the children so they will not get hurt.

So what you have here as the results of this change in three generations is the feminization of man.

TV paints man as being weaker than the woman. He is never with the children unless he is in an argument. If he is at work he is flirting with another woman who is not his wife.

There is no honor or dignity or strength given to marriage.

3. The husband is not just the partner of the wife but he is also the head.

a. We must understand that the role is not based on how important you are but what is your responsibility.

b. You do not determine who is the head in your marriage by who is the smartest.

4. Our culture today shows the woman is the stronger of the two.

a. I do not want to mislead you but there are times when the wife is smarter, stronger, sharper, and quicker.

b. But we must understand and believe what is God's plan for the head.

c. The number one frustration in a married woman's life today is the way her husband is not the head of the home.

5. What does the Bible say about being the head? This is what is ultimately important to God.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:23, 25-27; I Corinthians 11:3, 8-9

I. God Declares The Head as the Proper Model for Leadership.

A. God is the head of Christ.

They are equal in equality but not in role.

B. Christ is the head of man.

C. Man is the head of woman.

What were you thinking it meant to be the head of the home when you first were married? When you said I do.

What was going through your mind? What did you think it meant to be the head?

II. There Are Three Important Biblical Mandates Concerning Being The Head.

A. As the head you are assigned the leadership role. I Corinthians 11:3; Colossians 1:18

B. As the head you are delegated the authority. Colossians 2:10; Ephesians 1:22-23

How could man be the head without God giving him the authority? Biblical headship comes with the authority.

This is not something we deserve or earn but something God just gives.

C. As the head you bear responsibility. Colossians 2:19; Ephesians 4:15-16

This is the challenging part. Christ is the head of the church but willingly laid down His life for her. This is a good picture for the husband to follow for his wife.

“Therefore, by God’s design the husband is the head of the wife and lovingly exercises his delegated authority.”

III. God Made the Decision for the Husband to be the Head of the Wife. Eph. 5:23-24

There are at least four ways roles may be defined.

A. By our Culture.

- B. By other Christians.
- C. By our own Capabilities. (Not the Bible)
- D. By God's own Commandments.

Why is man supposed to be the head? Because God said it.

God did not say we will try it out and see how it goes, but He said, "Man, you are the head. It is not be negotiated."

Are all the men the head of all women? No, of course not. It is only after you enter into the role of the husband in marriage. As soon as you say, "I do" the very second you say, "I do" all of heaven looks at the man as head.

Raymond C. Ortlund said, "As the head the husband bears the primary responsibility to lead their partnership in a God-glorifying direction. Under God, a wife may not compete for that primary responsibility. It is her husband's just because he is the husband, by the wise decree of God. The ideal of equal rights in an unqualified sense is not Biblical."

Someone said, "Headship is not fifty-fifty. Is is 100% the responsibility of the man. If you don't want it, don't get married."

David DeWitt said, "A wife needs to put 100% into her unique role, too, but zero percent of her role is headship."

It is so unique that God has put another human being in your life for you to become the head.

For God to get a woman to become everything He wants for her to become, He says, "I have put her in your care as her head."

One of the things a woman wants most is the love of her husband.

Have you come to grips with this and accepted your role as the head of your home?

Even if you have not been the head in the past, now is the time to accept God's role for your life as the husband of your wife.

Let's take this time right now to kneel and pray and commit ourselves to God as the head of our homes.

Prayer: Lord, I humble myself and bow in humility before You! I confess that I have not been the head of my home as I should. I have not helped to blossom my wife to her

fullest capability. Cleanse me and give me the wisdom to accept my God given responsibility. I accept my responsibility as head of my home.

#### IV. There Are Four Biblical Principles The Head Must Follow.

What does it mean – what am I to do?

A. The head of the home must be an active leader who lovingly RULES and PROVIDES for his family.

When you go through the Scriptures these two action words keep coming up concerning a husband's responsibility in the home.

What does it mean to rule the home?

We are to rule well.

1. To rule the home means to stand before and care for the family.

Read I Timothy 3:2, 4-5

a. The greek word means to stand in front of. Precisely.

b. I must rule my house well, not with anger.

c. I must take care of my wife, protect her and make sure she is ok.

d. If I am to rule my household, then I am to take care of any need experienced by my wife or children. Luke 10:34-35

I am her leader.

Never the attitude – you dug your hole let me help you in it. Not you serve me. Luke 10:34-35 - take care of.

2. To provide for the home means to plan before to meet the family's needs. I Timothy 5:8. The children will respect you.

a. It is the husband's responsibility to make sure of the economic success of the home.

b. The husband must plan conservatively. Plan ahead. Don't go into debt.

c. He is not to delegate his responsibility to someone else, including his wife.

Would you have to make very many changes for your wife to be able to say you are the perfect head?

How do you rule and provide?

3. Look at the “headship continuum.” Seven ways to be head.

a. Abusive – This is further of an issue. Physical abuse.

b. Autocratic - It’s my way or no way. You are just a woman. What do you know?

c. Authoritarian - I’m in charge.

d. Authentic - This is the real and right type of headship that takes care of and provides for the wife and children.

e. Apathetic - Whatever you want. I don’t want to lead. You lead.

f. Absent - Not connected. Gone.

g. Abandon - I have had it. I am leaving. Divorce.

Where are you on the headship continuum?

When you start at the top of this list you have more anger and more egocentric people.

When you go to the bottom of this list you have more fear and too much passivity.

The ideal headship is right in the middle which is authentic.

Shifting can occur in either direction. Our goal as a husband is to stay centered in the list. The older generation is more on the anger side. The present generation is more passive.

The second Biblical principle is:

B. The head of the home must lead with understanding and by giving honor.  
Mark 10:42-43

The head of the home must not lead by exercising authority over his wife or lording it over her.

1. When a husband practices lording it over his wife then he abuses his personal power. Mark 10:42-45

2. When a husband exercises authority over his wife then he abuses his personal position. I’m the husband here.

A wife will follow one who rules and provides.

Let me stop here and ask how are we doing? Is our wife blossoming or is she wilting? We may have to go back and ask for forgiveness.

3. When a husband leads with understanding it means he will have intimate perception about his wife. I Peter 3:7 You can read her after just one or two words. You know her vulnerable spots.

The husband will know specifically how she is doing. He will know precisely what her needs are. This will help her blossom as the queen she ought to be.

4. When a husband leads by giving honor to his wife this means he will value her through portions of preciousness.

John Piper gives this significant statement: "Moreover Christ does not lead the church as his daughter but as his wife. He is preparing her to be a 'fellow-heir', not a servant girl. Any kind of leadership that in the name of Christlike headship tends to produce in a wife personal immaturity or spiritual weakness or insecurity through excessive control or picky supervision or oppressive domination has missed the point of the analogy in Ephesians 5. Christ does not create that kind of wife."

Since that is so true, then look at the third Biblical principle:

C. The head of the home must submit to God's primary call to be his wife's head and to devote himself to her above children, friends, recreation, ministry, or work.

What would your wife say is the most important thing in your life?

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Your wife must come first.

Begin to change your priorities.

The fourth Biblical principle is:

D. The head of the home must be the spiritual leader who nurtures his wife to become blameless, holy, and glorious. Ephesians 5:25-27

The results of this kind of leadership will cause your wife to be the godly woman God desires her to be.

Let's take the three expressions and see just exactly what we mean when we say blameless, holy, and glorious.

1. For my wife to be blameless means she is without fault in character and conduct.

2. For my wife to be holy means she is separated from sin and consecrated to God.

In other words, she is a growing Christian.

3. For my wife to be glorious means she is held in high honor and radiantly gorgeous.

This session is not meant to discourage any of us. But it is to help us focus on our responsibilities as the husband and head of our home.

What are some things we could do that would help to blossom our wives as godly women?

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I have to admit this is a pretty heavy dose of responsibility and I certainly do not want to leave you hanging in a spirit of despair, so what are some steps we can take to improve our role as head?

#### V. Five Practical Steps We Can Take To Improve Our Role As Head.

You can begin by first:

A. Rejoice and praise God regularly that He has called you to be the head of your wife.

As you lead her, "do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." Colossians 3:23



B. You must take responsibility for your own spiritual life and the spiritual lives of your wife and family. Ephesians 5:25-27

How do you take responsibility?

1. You read the Bible every day.
2. Specifically pray for your wife every day.
3. Pray for your wife's goals and dreams. (Do you know them?)
4. Pray with her concerning her struggles and challenges.
5. Pray for her spiritual walk and growth.
6. You must attend church regularly.
7. You should serve the Lord gladly every day.

C. If you feel inadequate, fearful or anxious about your role as head then rely on the Scriptures to help you overcome your feelings.

1. If you feel inadequate, overcome through James 1:4-8.
2. If you have fear, II Timothy 1:7 will help you overcome.
3. If you have feelings of anxiety you can overcome through Philippians 4:6-7.

D. Seek the council of godly mature married men for support and accountability. Proverbs 15:22; 11:14; 18:1.

E. Practice your role as head in your wife's life.

1. Be her protector – look out for her that no harm will come to her.
2. Be her provider – understand and provide for her needs. Bring home the bacon.
3. Be her point man – lead her in the direction she must go.
4. Be her problem solver – take a special interest in helping her overcome her problems.
5. Be her physician – when wounded or discouraged.
6. Be her priest – her connection with God.

7. Be her prince – make her feel like a princess.

## CONCLUSION

In closing, I want us to make a personal pledge to each other concerning our role and responsibility as head of the home.

We will begin first with the husband making a personal pledge:

Listen to it first. Husband: I commit to you that I will respond to God's call on my life to be your head. I ask for your forgiveness for the times I have failed you and not been the head that the Lord expects me to be. I hereby pledge to be an active leader who serves you with an understanding and gentle spirit.

And now the wife: I commit to you that I will respond to God's call on my life to follow you as my head. I ask for your forgiveness for the times I have struggled against you as my head and therefore not pleased the Lord. I hereby pledge to give you my respect and follow you as my head.

You may smooch.

Remember Christ's love for the Church is the husband's model of leadership for his wife.