

Entrust Biblical Masculinity Lesson 7 Masculinity & Marriage Part 2 1/5/22

5. Masculine Duties & the Husband

a. God's **roles** for a masculine husband

- i. Lover (Eph 5:25-26)
- ii. Leader (1 Cor 11:3, Eph 5:22-24)
- iii. Learner (1 Pet 3:7)

b. God's command for husbands (love, lead, learn)

i. A masculine husband must love his wife

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

The command for a husband to love his wife is to be patterned after Christ's love for the church. The way that Christ loves his elect informs a husband as to how God commands him to love his wife.

1. Love that takes initiative

Christ took initiative to love the church.

1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

2. Love that is sacrificial

Christ's love involved his wrath-bearing death. He took up his cross on behalf of his Bride.

Eph 5:25 ...just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

3. Love that is mindful of one's own sin against God

Christ bore the wrath due us so that we could be saved. Keeping this in mind positions us to be humble and gracious with another sinner.

Eph 5:25 ...just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

4. Love that is unceasing

Christ's love for his church will never cease. A husband does not "fall in and out of love" for his wife, but, like Christ, sets his heart to commit to love her, recalling that love is action (1 Cor 13:4-7).

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. Love that is tender

Christ's love for his church is gentle and gracious. So must a husband's love be.

Matthew 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS."

6. Love that is as loving one's own person

Christ's loves the church as his own body.

Ephesians 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself

7. Love that resists bitterness

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

8. Love that promotes her sanctification (if she is regenerate)

A loving husband will promote his wife's progress in godliness. If she is unregenerate, then he will prayerfully seek to evangelize her.

Ephesians 5:26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word

ii. A masculine husband must lead his wife

1. What godly leadership is not

Matthew 20:25–28 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

➤ A godly leader is not a stoic dictator

He will graciously consider his wife in his leadership

➤ A godly leader is not a dominator

He will listen to his wife and receive her input

2. What godly leadership looks like

➤ He leads by example (1 Pet 5:3)

No husband or leader will be perfect. However, in general, he sets a followable example, especially behind closed doors in the privacy of his home where only God sees. There is a

sense in which what a man is in the home is what he truly is, and not much more.

The way he speaks to his wife, speaks about other people around her, conducts himself, relates to his children, and such, are godly examples for his family to follow.

- He leads by working on his own sanctification (Phil 2:12-13)

A husband who prioritizes growth in humility and godliness will be increasingly useful and effective in his home (and every sphere of life).

- He provides spiritual nourishment (John 21:15)

The husband is a humble teacher in the home. His family can look to him for biblical wisdom, guidance, and knowledge of Scripture and sound theology. He seeks to influence his family in the home with God's word.

- He provides physical nourishment (1 Tim 5:8)

A husband leads by seeking to provide the material needs for his family.

- He leads by working on being a godly joy to live with (Eccl 9:9, Eph 5:25)
- He leads by being patient with her shortcomings and taking a long-term view of her growth (1 Cor 13:4a; 1 Thess 5:14b)
- He leads by providing temporal rest, recreation, and rejuvenation (Eccl 9:9)

Leaders must incorporate activities into the normal rhythms of life which will provide refreshment (e.g. vacations she enjoys, weekly outings, going for walks together, recreation, etc).

- He leads his family into Christ's local body (1 Cor 12:14-18; Heb 10:24-25; Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:2-3)

Leadership involves leading those over whom God has given him leadership into the church for which Christ died. He structures the details of his family's life to embrace God's priority of involvement in a biblically sound NT church.

- He sets godly goals for his family (Eph 5:25-28)

He asks, "What will it take to provide spiritual and physical nourishment and lead my home God's way? What does God want me to prioritize, and not prioritize, in order to achieve that? What will set my wife and children in a God-honoring direction?"

- He protects his family from sin and promotes holiness (Eph 5:25-27; Phil 4:9)

The husband asks, "What things should I prioritize in the home in order to eliminate temptation from my family? What things should I include and exclude from the home to promote holiness?" He will need to shepherd his wife (and family) in whom she should and should not keep company with, encouraging her to fellowship with godly women who will challenge and encourage her in godliness. He may need to set boundaries with things like social media, for example, in order to minimize dissipation and temptation.

- He leads by helping her embrace biblical femininity

Titus 2:3-5 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

Generally, a wife is somewhere in one of these two categories. The husband's leadership looks like helping her embrace God's commanded duties befitting her role.

- He does not lead out of fear or intimidation of his wife

One cannot usually be fearful of someone and love them at the same time (cf 1 John 4:18).

- He leads by helping her understand if she is regenerate

Nothing is more important than a person's soul. Though we cannot produce salvation (cf. John 3:3-8), faithful leadership is concerned with whether or not a person is regenerate (see Paul in 2 Cor 13:5). A husband should concern himself with his wife's spiritual state. This does not mean incessantly questioning her salvation. Rather, insofar as we can without being omniscient, he looks for fruit of salvation (cf. Matt 13:20-23) and gently shepherds her accordingly.

- Where needed, he provides biblical correction to his wife's errors and sins in belief, doctrine, speech, and conduct

Proverbs 27:5-6 Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

Matthew 18:15 If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Galatians 6:1-2 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Every position of leadership, including leading one's wife, requires loving and gracious reproof and correction of those being lead. At times, while getting the log out of his own eye, a husband will need to correct her if she believes unsound doctrine, gossips, slanders, or is in a pattern that is disrupting her walk with the Lord.

Whether an employer, manager, pastor, coach, or husband, the man who does not reprove and correct the errors of those in his sphere of leadership is failing to love and lead God's way. When necessary, this will involve standing up to his wife in a gentle, self-controlled manner (never using

physical force), and not caving in to sin. As it's been said, "If a man will not stand up to his wife, he will probably not stand up for her."

- He helps solve problems (Eph 5:25-28)
- He leads sexually (1 Cor 7:3-5)

He leads and communicates with his wife in a godly manner to ensure that the marriage is embracing God's desire for regular and frequent sexual intimacy as husband and wife (Prov 5:18-19; 1 Cor 7:3-5). This will also require that a husband take up his role as "learner" of his wife (1 Pet 3:7).

- (If they have children) He leads by discussing with his wife how they will embrace God's command to nourish and discipline the children (Prov 13:24, 23:13-14; Eph 6:4)
- He leads by orchestrating their family calendar and schedule together (Eph 5:25, 1 Pet 3:7)

iii. A masculine husband must learn about his wife

1 Peter 3:7 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.

- The phrase, "...live with your wives in an understanding way," has the idea of, "dwell with your wives according to knowledge."
- Therefore, husbands are to learn about the wife God has given them
- They are to be a "Wife-ologist."
- This requires taking an interest in her and spending time with her.
- Asking questions such as:

- What are her joys in life?
- What are her current burdens? How can I help with those burdens?
- What are her fears?
- What sins is she struggling with? How am I helping her grow?
- What are some things I do that are not helpful for her? Are helpful for her?
- Concerning physical intimacy, what serves her? What does not serve her?
- What refreshes her?
- How can I be praying for her in this season of life?
- How might I orchestrate a date night to bless her?