

## My Imperfect Family - Sermon 3

### The Role of the Husband - Eph. 5:21

#### OPENING ILLUSTRATION:

Practically everything created or ordained by God in one way or another points either to the goodness of God or to the sinfulness of man.

- **Creation –Psalm 19:1-3 (NASB95)**

<sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. <sup>2</sup> Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

**ILLUSTRATION:** *Missionaries tell the un-reached people that God has a son and they say, “we know” how did you know? “The Sun and the Moon”.*

- The **Old Testament Sacrificial system** was a series of types and shadows that found their ultimate fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- **New Testament Baptism** points the congregation back to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
- The **Lord’s Table** points to the shed blood and the broken body of our Lord and it point forward to His second coming.

In one way or another everything Ordained by God speaks of either the greatness of God or the sinfulness of Man and points us to where the two intersect in the cross of Jesus Christ.

That is what Paul is referring to in the context of marriage in **Ephesians 5:32–33 (ESV)** <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

#### **Nothing in all creation pictures the Gospel is as perfectly as Christian marriage**

- That is why marriage was the first institution that God ordained, before the state, before the Church – **God created marriage**.
- That is one of the reasons there is **no more marriage in Heaven**, simply because we have the substance that the shadow pointed to.
- That is why God hates **divorce** – It is **divine character assassination**.
- That is why God hates **abuse** – It is **divine misrepresentation**.
- When you called me as your Pastor almost two years ago, the chief way you were called to discern whether or not a man is capable to leading the

Gospel community? You look at his leadership within the home. If he can't lead his home, how will he lead the household of faith?

**And that is why marriage in the Christian context or let's be clear – YOUR MARRIAGE - has a giant bull's eye for the attacks of Satan and Demons.**

**TEXT:** With that in mind we come to one of the most important yet controversial sections of the New Testament. Last week we saw the first part -

**Ephesians 5:22-33 (NASB95)**

<sup>22</sup> Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

If you were not here, let me encourage you to subscribe to the podcast - Maximum Life with Zach Terry and catch up. Now new material...

<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

Notice 2 things:

## **1. Jesus defines the Position of the Husband**

**Ephesians 5:23** For the husband **is** the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church,

- He didn't say, "The Husband is **SUPPOSED** to be the head of the wife"
- "The Husband **OUGHT** to be the head of the wife"
- But rather, "The Husband **IS** the head of the wife"

That very simply means that Christ's relationship to the Church **defines** the Husband's relationship to the wife. This idea is what theologians call **Federal Headship**.

This idea has implications for the wife, but the implications for the husband are staggering and those are what I want to camp out on today.

The first way Jesus defines the position of the husband is by teaching us that...

### **a. Headship = Leadership**

Leadership in the Christian context never means that you Lord over those you lead, but it does mean that you are chiefly responsible to meet with God and give direction to the family. For better or worse you the buck stops with you my friend.

**This does not mean that:**

- **Your wife cannot hear from God or offer good and godly advice**
- **You are somehow better than your wife**

## Generally there have been three camps when it comes to gender within the Church-

1. **Egalitarianism** – Men and Women are the same, the distinctions are cultural. Anyone with boys and girls know this is untrue.
2. **Chauvinism** – Men and Better than Women, **Aristotle** *said that women were somewhere between animals and men but they are far inferior to men.*
3. **Complimentarianism** – the Genders are like left hand and right hand working together.
  - Equal, but unique.
  - Equal but different
  - Equal but different roles
  - Adrian Rogers said it well, “*God made us different so He might make us one.*”

**TRINITY** - Paul explains how the genders relate to each other **1 Corinthians 11** by appealing to the concept of the Trinity - <sup>3</sup>I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

The Son is Equal to the Father in every way, but it is ordered equality.

- Headship does not mean that You are somehow better than your wife
- Headship does not guarantee that your wife will follow your leadership, but you are not accountable for her followship, just your leadership.
- It does not mean that you are infallible

**Headship doesn't mean that at all** - It simply means that God has chosen to lead the family through the husband not the wife, not the children, not the inlaws, not the Pastor... the husband. Sir you and you alone are responsible for the direction of your family.

- **In Num 12 we see that Miriam and Aaron has some problem with the concept that God can speak to a group through one man - 2.** "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?"

Well that was a decent argument – What gives Moses the right to lead us? Is he better than us? NO! Is he more spiritual? NO! As a matter of fact he murdered an Egyptian.

Ultimately God rebukes Miriam and Aaron why? Because God choose to lead through Moses.

**God will lead your family through your husband.**

**Headship = Leadership - you are the leader.**

### **b. Headship = Accountability**

- **Remember in Genesis 3:6-9 Just after the fall, who did God go looking for? The snake? NO! Eve? NO! He held Adam accountable.**

Because God has placed you in authority God holds you chiefly responsible for the family.

- **When girls committed sexual immorality in the OT. Deuteronomy 22:20-21 (NASB95) <sup>20</sup>“But if this charge is true, that the girl was not found a virgin, <sup>21</sup> then they shall bring out the girl *to the doorway of her father’s house*, and the men of her city shall stone her to death because she has committed an act of folly in Israel by playing the harlot in her father’s house; thus you shall purge the evil from among you.**

**LISTEN CAREFULLY** - you are not responsible for the sins of your children. But you are accountable to God if their sins are a direct result for your negligent parenting.

So you see headship is not something that you want to boast in or Lord over your wife – it should be the kind of thing that if you understand it properly you would relinquish in a heartbeat if God would allow it. It is a great burden. I think that is why so many sissy men fail to lead well.

***In God’s eyes – you are the HEAD! Jesus defines your position...***

**ILLUSTRATION:** In his book *Point Man*, Steve Farrar describes what it means for the husband to be the leader better than I can...Imagine this with me - *It’s 1966. You are only 18. You are in the absolute prime of youth. You’ve got a driver’s license, a girlfriend, and plenty of dreams. Your entire life is ahead of you. But through a strange set of circumstances that you don’t fully understand, suddenly your driver’s license in useless, your girlfriends picture is in your wallet, your dreams are on hold, and you are in a country thousands of miles away from home.*

***Welcome to Vietnam.***

*On this particular day you would give anything not to be here. For you are going out on patrol. You’ve been on patrol before, but today is different, and that’s why there’s a knot in your gut and an icy fear in your heart.*

Today is different because the patrol leader has appointed you to be, “**Point Man**”. In essence you are the leader. Everyone else will fall behind you. And as you move out to encounter the enemy, you realize that the survival of those seven men stepping cautiously behind you will depend upon just one thing – your ability to lead. Your judgment may determine whether they live or die. The responsibility hangs over your head like the suffocating humidity that hangs heavy in the air.

Your senses have never been so alive, your adrenalin so surging. You can almost hear it rushing through your veins. You know the enemy is near, maybe just hundreds of yards away. Intelligence reported heavy enemy activity in this area late last night. Your job is to confirm or deny that activity. For all you know they are watching you right now. But you don't have a clue where they are.

As you make your way through the rain forest, you've got one eye out for concealed wires in your path and another scanning the trees for snipers. Entire patrols have been lost because the point man failed to anticipate an ambush. Men have been killed or horribly maimed all because a point man lacked skill and wisdom.

**You never saw it coming.** The violent shock and utter surprise of gunfire momentarily paralyzes you, despite your instant reaction training. Before you can respond a bullet tears through your flesh and explodes the bone in your leg. A thousand thoughts instantly flood your mind: Am I going to die? Where are those shots coming from? Is there more than one? Will I lose my leg? Where's the patrol leader?

One glance to the left tells you that the family of the patrol leader is now fatherless. In the chaos of the attack, and in spite of your wounds, the radio man makes his way to you. He knows and you know that you are the most experienced man. In panic situations like this, the book goes out the window. Like it or not **YOU ARE THE LEADER**.

As a medic evaluates your wound, you're trying to determine what to do next. Just what is the situation? What are we up against? Where are they? Some good news in the midst of the confusion brings a ray of hope – the bullet went through cleanly and the bleeding has stopped. You're luckier than most guys on point. Usually, they're dead before they hit the ground. You're still alive and in control of your thinking.

Two other men beside the patrol leader were hit. One is dead, the other bleeding profusely. You get on the radio and report your situation and position. You request a chopper for the hemorrhaging private. But before you can finish your request, the hidden enemy unleashes all of his firepower on your position. You're surrounded.

*In your gut you know the odds are against you. You're outnumbered, outgunned, and not in the greatest position to wage a counterattack. You've got two men dead, one dying, and four wondering if they'll make it to lunch. The worst case scenario has happened... and it's worse than you ever imagined.*

*Now is the time your leadership will make the difference. What you say and do will determine whether your men live or die. As automatic weapons blaze around you, you must accurately assess the situation, determine the critical next steps, and formulate a flawless plan. It's leadership, pure and simple. If your plan works, you may get out alive with half your men. If it doesn't they'll be lucky to find your dog tags.*

**Now, Let's make a critical change in the scenario.** *You're still in Vietnam, on patrol in the same steamy rain forest. But something about this patrol is different. You're still the point man, but this time you are not leading a group of men. You're leading your family.*

*You look over your shoulder to see your wife and your children following behind. Your little girl is trying to choke back the tears and your little boy is trying to be brave. Your wife is holding the baby trying to keep him quiet. On this patrol, you don't want to engage the enemy, you want to avoid him.*

*What would you be feeling under these conditions? The survival of each member of your family – and it's survival as a whole – would completely depend upon your ability to lead through the maze of possible ambushes, unseen booby traps, invisible snipers, and all the extraordinary hazards of combat.*

*Gentlemen this is not imaginary situation – if you are a husband and a father you are in the war. War has been declared upon your family and their survival depends upon you.*

**Headship means you are the leader...**

- **Joshua understood this as he takes biblical stands for the family** Joshua 24 but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
- **The Psalmist Understood this as he calls The Father to lead in training the children** Psalm 78 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded **our fathers** to teach their children. (It's not momma's job)

**SATAN'S CHIEF GOAL IS TO NEUTRALIZE THE LEADER.  
I WANT FBC TO A CHURCH WHERE MEN RISE TO DUTY.**