

MBC MEN'S STUDY

LEADERSHIP 7: MAN AND HIS HOME

CLASS 2: MAN AS A LEADER

Before getting into the book, here is the lay out the framework for our five-month men's study class.

- **Jan. 15th:** *The Exemplary Husband* chapters 7-8
- **Feb. 12th:** *The Exemplary Husband* chapters 9-10
- **Mar. 12th:** *The Exemplary Husband* chapter 14
- **Apr 16th:** *The Exemplary Husband* chapters 16-17
- **May 21st:** *The Shepherd Leader at Home* Instructing your family

PURPOSE OF THIS 5 MONTH CLASS

- Why do we want to talk about the man and his home?
- We have talked about many theological and technical subjects over the past couple years, this is where all that knowledge and information has the chance to be lived out.
- While not everyone is called to the elder role in a church, all men are called to live for the glory of God, all husbands and fathers are called to lead, guide, feed and protect their families.
- If you are desiring the office of elder, Paul says in **1 Timothy 3:4-5** "He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)."
- While this applies to those who are elders, there are many other exhortations throughout the Bible which speak of having an organized, peaceful, spiritual and well-ordered home (Deut 6; Pro 24:3-4; Col 3:19; 1 Tim 5:8; Eph 5:25-31).
- Over the course of this class, our hope is that you are going to grow in several key areas of bring a man of God. As you grow in these areas, you are also going to grow in being a husband, a father and a leader of the family. The overall purpose is for your life to bring honor and glory to Christ and to be an example to others.
- This class is going to examine our heart. We want to have a clear definition of what our heart is, the relationship that our heart has with our works and what influences our worship and love.

THE HUSBAND IS TO LEAD

- “The husband’s leadership is a mandate from God, and such is a privilege and responsibility.”¹
- Last month we talked about what it looked like to worship Christ alone. Not only that but also the most important commitment a husband can make is that his heart is turned towards Christ all of his days.
- We discussed idols in the heart, what an idol was and how they capture our love and attention in such a way that we put those things above our love for our wives.
- If we have idols in our hearts, we will not love God the way we should and therefore we will not live in such a way that honors Him. The result will be a half-hearted marriage and a family that’s on life support.
- We talked about recognizing and getting rid of idols in our hearts and the extreme measures it may take to make sure we are walking in holiness.
- Once that was done, we discussed what Biblical love really was and what it was not.
- It is from this point that we come to our topic today, the husband’s responsibility to lead.
- A husband will not be able to lead his wife and family if he is not loving them the way that God has ordained him to love them.

The Natural Man	The Spiritual Man
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-confident • Knows men • Makes own decisions • Ambitious • Originates own methods • Enjoys commanding others • Motivated by personal considerations • Independent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confident in God • Knows God • Seeks to find God’s will • Self-effacing (to make himself inconspicuous) • Finds and follows God’s methods • Delights to obey God • Motivated by love for God and man • God-dependent

- Christ’s way of leading is not only very different than the world’s but in most cases, it is the exact opposite of what the world would have a man do.
- “Poor leadership is the cause of *many* [not all] conflicts in marriage.”²
- How a husband leads is directly related to what a husband wants.

¹ Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, p. 117

² Ibid. p. 118

- The idols of his heart are going to be dictating the actions of his hands.
- For example, if you desire comfort, ease and laziness, you are going to allow your wife to do the normal tasks which fall under your authority.
- If you desire control and dominance, you are going to lead her in such a way that takes her personality away and makes sure she subjects herself to you.
- If your desire is freedom, you are going to lead your wife to be her own woman and try to find herself outside of your marriage.
- **No matter what, you cannot lead your wife without exposing your heart idols.** This is why it is of the utmost importance to continually look at your heart, diagnose your actions and stay close with your wife.
- This means that when we lead our wives we must always keep in mind that we are influenced by desires in our hearts which each decision that we make.
- We are never going to be free of these desires, but we can be free of their control over our decisions.
- **Colossians 3:8-10, 12-13 “But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him--¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”**
- Paul makes clear that that we are put-off the things that characterize the old man, the unsaved man, and we are to put-on the things which characterize the new, saved man.
- This is not something that is done automatically, but something that you must actually do.
- We now have the ability to do this, so when we are leading our families, we need to do so from the character of the new man, not the old one.

THE HUSBAND HAS GOD GIVEN AUTHORITY TO LEAD

- “The responsibility to lead always comes from holding a position of authority.”³
- While there are abuses and misrepresentations of what this authority is to look like, there is no reason that the husband should not or could not lead his wife and family.
- This can be a hot topic because the Bible never says *husbands have authority over their wife*. So where do we get this from in the Bible?
- **Ephesians 5:24 “But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.”**

³ Ibid. p. 118

- By implication, not direct command, the husband has authority in his home. This verse is not in a vacuum though. It is not without much context and it is surrounded by many commands.
- Just a cursory look at Ephesians 5, one quickly realizes that Paul talks about how all Christians are to imitate God, walk in love, sacrificially towards one another.
- How believers are to act on towards one another in life and in the church. Then after 21 verses of commanding right behavior towards one another, he moves from the general (all believers) to the specific, husbands and wives.
- This means that if you are saved, and your wife is a believer, you have far more commands to follow than just the few Paul gives to husbands.
- You as a husband will be held accountable for how you treated all believers, including your wife, and then how you took care of your wife and family specifically.
- Speaking of the Bema seat of judgment, Paul says in **2 Corinthians 5:10** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
 - The judgment seat of Christ involves a time in the future when believers will give an account of themselves to Christ. This is the plain teaching of Scripture: “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). The warning is to Christians, not unbelievers. As Jesus taught in His parable, the king is going to return, at which time he will require an account from his servants (Luke 19:11–26).⁴
- How you interact with other believers and how you lead your family is going to be scrutinized when you stand before Christ. This is not for salvation, that’s the Great White Throne judgment (**Rev. 20**), but for a time of examination of your works. If you are married, those works will be included as well.

- **What do we know about a husband’s authority?**⁵

A Husband’s Authority is Limited

- No matter what sphere of influence God has placed you (church leadership, governmental leadership or family leadership), the only one who has ultimate authority is the one who gives it...God Himself.
- Husbands do not have ultimate authority to do what they want or to have their families do what they want.
- He is not allowed to sin nor to have his family sin.
- “While it is true that your wife must obey you unless you ask her to sin, **your concern** must be that you are obeying God and loving your wife in whatever decisions and requests you make.” (p. 119).

⁴ <https://www.gotquestions.org/judgment-seat-Christ.html>

⁵ Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, pp. 118-120

- This goes back to **Ephesians 5:1-21**...are you as a husband taking care your relationship with the Lord before you start leading your family?⁶

A Husband's Authority Must be Active

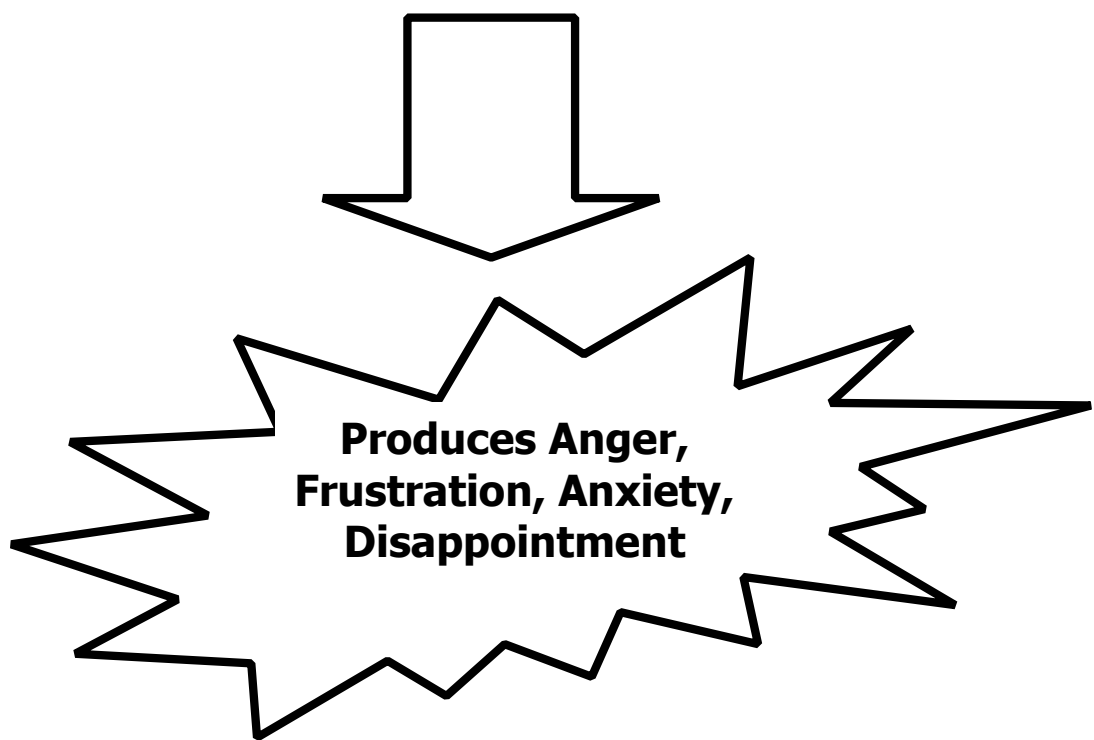
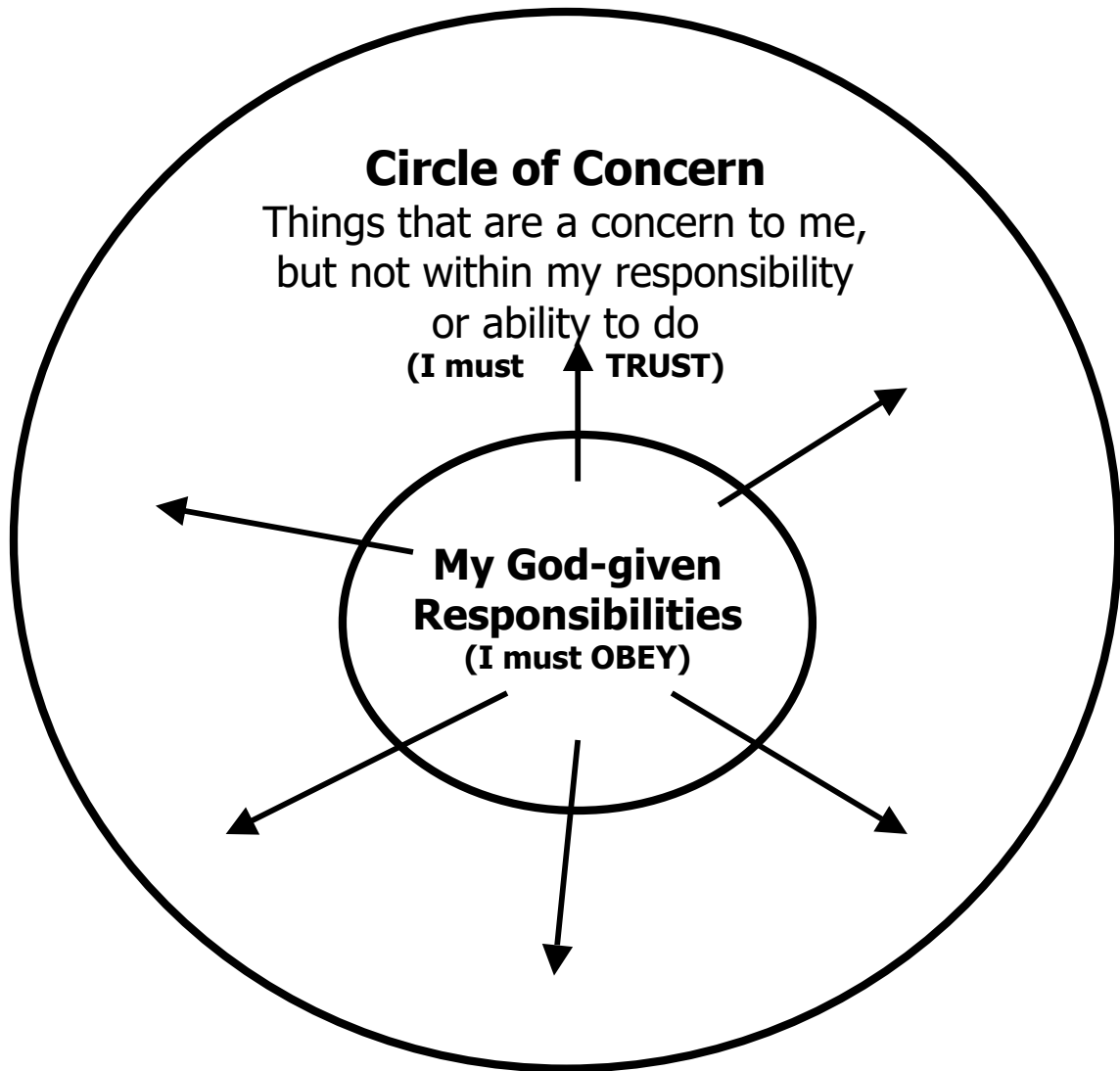
- "...your authority requires you to lead. It is not an option..." (p. 119)
- A husband is not a dictator nor is he to be a passive participant of marriage.
- He is to lead by example, growing in the same grace that his wife needs to grow in. Leading in the same Spirit that his wife needs.
- There is no place for a husband to be apathetic or unmotivated in his marriage. Just as he is to have his heart tuned to Christ, he is to lead his wife to do the same.
- The authority that you have is for you to use, and to use it for the glory of God.

Some purposes for the authority you have been given are:⁷

- To help others see how God leads his people.
- To develop humility and obedience in all those concerned
- To guide the family in righteousness.
- To give a sense of order and stability in the home.
- To provide what is needed for the family.
- To protect the family.
- To accomplish ministry for God more effectively.
- To help the family be a good witness to the world.
- These are just some of the way that you are to actively lead your family on a daily basis.
- **1 Timothy 3:3-5, 12** "not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)...¹²Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households."
- One of the points that Scott brings out is the meaning of the word *manage*. Out of this whole list, this one word speaks to the active part of caring for the family.
- It means *to set or place before, to be a protector or guardian, to give aid, to care for, give attention to...*
- Men, to manage your household well, you must keep in in order, guard those who are under your care, give attention to them and make sure they have what they need to thrive.

⁶ We are going to look at some practical ways to accomplish this further on in our study.

⁷ Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband* p. 120



Entrust to God

Things the Lord wants me to do, that I can't give to anyone else.

Love God
Change Me
Serve Others
????



Things that are not my responsibility or within my sphere to do or produce.

Change God
Change Others
Be Perfect
????

Carefully Obey

WHAT IS THE HUSBAND'S AUTHORITY OVER HIS WIFE?⁸

- Here are some other examples of the authority which has been given to the husband.

A husband has no authority to ask his wife to sin.

- A husband may sometimes have to make a judgment call in an area where his wife disagrees with him, but a husband must never become his wife's conscience or ask his wife to do things that violate her conscience. When a husband robs his wife of Christian liberty, he is usurping God's authority.

A husband grows wise in the use of his authority by studying Scripture.

- A husband can only be a skilled leader, if he is a diligent student of the Word of God.
- There is no shortcut here. Husbands need to learn the Word of God thoroughly and how to read and understand the Scriptures properly.

A husband is required to exercise his authority as one who lives a humble, loving, and godly life.

- Before a husband can lead others, he has to learn to lead himself. How can he manage his household, if he can't even manage himself? Husbands, therefore, must sit at the feet of the Lord Jesus and learn from Him. They need to learn how the streams of sin run in their own hearts so that they can mortify them by grace and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. They need to learn how to apply Christ to themselves, to grow in communion with Christ, and to become more like Him.
- Husbands need to repent faithfully of their sins. Husbands should be known in their homes for gracious and sincere repentance. They should take the lead in confessing sin, humbly asking for forgiveness, and growing in obedience to the good law of God. Husbands must be leaders in submitting to Christ's headship and living under His authority.

A husband should exercise authority over his wife by service.

- Jesus teaches that all Christians in authority, including husbands, are to be servant leaders.
- The goal of a husband's authority is the good of his wife, where "good" is defined by God's Word. Everything he does to lead and manage his home should be aimed at serving his wife, first, and then his children, to the glory of God, never himself. He should never use his authority to serve himself. Only a selfish and oppressive husband uses his authority for his personal gain.
- But more than that, when a husband faithfully uses his authority for his wife's good, and his wife benefits from it, a godly wife will become more and more convinced of his wisdom. The more she believes that her husband is wise, the more inclined she will be to trust him.

⁸ <https://pastortomhicks.com/2019/12/10/what-is-a-husbands-authority-over-his-wife/>

A husband may never force, coerce, intimidate, or manipulate his wife to submit to his authority.

- When husbands speak to their wives, they must avoid all harshness and severity. They should always join their authority to meekness, humility and love. Sometimes a wife resists her husband's authority, and he sinfully tries to enforce his authority by yelling, using harsh and sinful speech, slamming doors, etc. Some sinfully use cold tactics of manipulation, false blame, constant grinding debate, etc. But all of these are terrible sins.
- A wife will respond the best when her husband approaches her with humility, love, gentleness, and quietness.

THE EXEMPLARY HUSBAND IS A TYPE OF SHEPHERD-LEADER

- If we are to love our wives as Christ loved the church, we must too be men who shepherd our wives.
- Christ cares for the church as He is leading it. Just as Jesus said that He would build His church (**Matt 16:18**), He also leads and protects His church as the Chief Shepherd (**1 Peter 5:4**).
- Our leadership, as husbands, should, as much as possible, have similar qualities to that of Christ as He is leading the church.
- The word which is used for how we are to lead is shepherd. Husbands, you are not kings, you are not tyrants, you are not authoritarians...you are shepherds who lead.
 - One description that I have heard is that we are shepherds who lead, not leaders who shepherd. Just as pastors are not teachers that shepherd but shepherds who teach. The primary responsibility of an elder/pastor is to shepherd, they just also teach as well.
- This means, like Scott says, "...we [husbands] do have authority to make decisions, but *authority is not the goal*. Authority is a means to an end – God's end. It is the means by which we care for our wives and do God's will. We are also partners and companions."⁹
- What qualities does Christ have that we, as shepherd-leaders, need to have as well?

A Shepherd Knows Where he is Going. (p. 121)

- **John 6:38** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me."
- Shepherds lead their flock to a specific destination. That means two things...firstly, you must know where you are going...secondly, you must be able to communicate that to those who are following.
- A shepherd is neither feeble or insipid, nor is he rash or reckless. As a shepherd, the husband must seek to be informed and purposeful in his decisioning making.
- **Ephesians 5:15** "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise..."

⁹ Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband* p. 121

- The verb *be careful* is an imperative command. It means *to see, discern, to have understanding, to consider or to contemplate*.
- Men, as you are making decisions for your family, there needs to be thought that goes into them. There needs to be considerations taken for all possible outcomes which may occur.

- As a shepherd leads their flock of sheep, he needs to know if there is good grass, fresh streams and good shelter for his sheep. He needs to know if danger lies ahead for him and his flock. This is you as a husband. To the best of your ability, taking all things into consideration, you need to lead your family.
- “Obviously we cannot be lazy as husbands. We must not sit back and let our wives do the evaluating and the decision-making. We should certainly enlist their input, but the evaluating and the decision-making are our own responsibility.”¹⁰
- This is why it is so important that you are in the Word on a regular basis. It is God’s grace towards you that your wife will give her input and His grace further towards you that you have His Word. But ultimately, you are the one who must make the decision and move forward with the choice.
- **Proverbs 18:15 “The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.”**
- To be prudent and wise, as you are shepherding, remember that your wife has the same Holy Spirit that you do and the same Bible. If you are shepherding well, you and your wife will be on the same page before you ever need to make the hard decisions.

A Shepherd Knows How to Lead Lovingly

- A true shepherd loves and care for his sheep at all times.
- **Psalm 23 “A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”**
- Are you loving and caring for your wife the way the Good Shepherd cares for you?

A Shepherd Leads by Example

- A true shepherd leads the sheep by his own example. He is to go first and the sheep follow him.
- Christ did this for His disciples, teaching them to pray (Matt 6), how to serve (John 13) and how to minister to those around Him (Luke 8:1-9:6).
- “Likewise we need to be leading our wives by example. The motto, *do as I say, not as I do*, will not satisfy God or your wife. No one wants to follow a hypocrite.” (Scott p. 123)

¹⁰ Ibid. p. 122

- What are the qualities that all men should possess? (1 Timothy 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-9)
 - Above reproach, being blameless as one who does not practice evil.
 - Husband of one wife, being a one-woman man, faithful and true to your wife.
 - Having self-control, being temperate and well-composed.
 - Prudent, having sound judgment and in touch with reality.
 - Respectable, being orderly and not immature.
 - Hospitable, being a friend to strangers using your home to minister to others.
 - Not addicted to wine, not being a drunkard and being self-controlled
 - Not pugnacious, not easily angered.
 - Free from the love of money, not focused on earthly gains and possessions
 - Manage your household well, cares for his family and rules them well.
 - Keeps his children under control with dignity, his children obey and respect him and act accordingly.

A Shepherd Knows How to Oversee.

- “Shepherding is not a harsh, driving or controlling kind of leadership. Some men treat their wives like little children, doing everything for them or trying to control their every activity and decision. A shepherding husband, however, does not “lord it over” his wife. There is most of the time a significant measure of freedom in the way a good shepherd leads.” (Scott pp. 124-125)
- When a husband lords his position over his wife and kids he is no longer leading as the Lord has commanded. He is only concerned with his own goals, not intent on pleasing the Lord.
- As husbands who desire to be faithful to the Scriptures, we must put off the desire or tendency to lead by lording and put on patience, self-control and, most importantly, love.
- **1 Peter 4:7-8 “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”**

A Shepherd is Involved

- “A number of husbands are too cowardly, fearful or busy about the wrong things to be involved. Some fear the reaction of their wife and the consequences of doing the right thing. Instead, they must have courage, faith in God, and trust that His Word will guide them in whatever results from taking the responsibility to lead.” (Scott p. 125)
- Husbands are going to be held accountable for how they have led their wives.
- Have they been men of character, seeking to model godliness to their wives?
- Have they been men who have an unyielding desire to uphold the commands of Scripture?
- To be involved means that you know what is taking place in the home because you are a part of it.

- 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.”
- There are more that Scott brings out in pages 127-129, but the overall point is that the husband who desires to lead his wife and love her as Christ loved the church is going to be a servant-leader.
- This was the example of Christ to us. He enhanced His leadership by serving. His service showed us His love and care towards us.
- As you lead like Christ, you do not think of yourself, but put others before your own needs.

CHAPTER 10: LEADERSHIP PART II

- This chapter is about basics; giving men specific helps for applying what has been learned so far.
- Now that we know what God expects from husbands, it is important to put a plan in place to accomplish what He desires.

Know Your Goals

- “As the leader of your household, you must first determine your personal and spiritual goals. What are your goals in marriage? What are your educational and vocational goals? What are your ministry goals? You should not aimlessly drift from day to day taking things as they come. Remember – all your goals / plans are under God’s sovereign providence (James 4:13-15).”
- Once the man has taken care of his personal goals, it is time to plot a course for his family. This is not a one sided event but must include his wife as well.
- Direction and possible goals you can establish for your household: (Scott p. 132)
- Establish the Word of God as the standard for your home.
- Establish how you will provide for your family spiritually (a good church and biblical instruction)
- Establish how you will work toward financial stability and providing basic needs for the family
- Establish operational guidelines for your own household (devotions, Bible reading, family nights, etc.)
- Establish ministry goals and guidelines for your family (church involvement, body life, etc.)
- Proverbs 16:9 “The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.”
- It is important to have your plans and set your goals, but also know that the Lord is working to bring you and your family to an intended end.
- Do not be so rigid and inflexible that your goals and schedule never adapt and change.
- It is a good thing to put goals in place and best practice to submit those goals to the Lord.

Know Areas to Oversee

- Husbands need to oversee and be actively involved in areas of their wife's life that affect her physical and spiritual wellbeing.
- You are firstly to pray for your wife. Know your wife and pray for your wife.
- You should be praying with your wife.
- Be involved in your local church community by doing ministry together and body life with each other.
- Point your wife to God's Word and His loving care as you are shepherding and caring for her.
- You will never be able to comfort your wife the same way that the Lord can. But, He is going to use you to bring comfort to her.
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-5** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ."
- God has brought us comfort, not only for our own needs but so that we will be able to point people to the comfort that we received.
- Point your wife towards Christ and glorifying God in all her decision-making.
- Whether it is with the kids or at her job or doing the mundane aspects of life, encourage your wife that she is doing all of this to the glory of God. Her role has purpose and meaning because of God.
- Encourage your wife to have solid, Biblical relationships with other women.
- Make sure that she knows her value and worth to you in her relationship with you. Don't just tell her but show her how much you value her and her input in your relationship.
- If she serves at the church, make sure it is in a godly way and that she does not overextend herself.
- You are there to protect her from giving too much time to "extra" things and you are there to make sure she is on the Biblical path.

Know When to Stand Strong

- "A good leader will not vacillate on the basis of popular opinion. Strongly evaluate your wife's input and concerns, but also remember, you will answer to God for how you lead." (Scott p. 141)
- **Genesis 2:18** "Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.'"
 - The word for helper also means assistance. God has made the woman, the wife, to be a helper and/or one who assists her husband.
 - The same word for help is used all throughout the OT when speaking of God and His relationship with Israel.
 - **Hosea 13:9** "It is your destruction, O Israel, that you are against Me, against your help."

- This is obviously speaking of Israel and their continual rejection of God and what He was desiring to do in and through them.
- But I think that it is a very helpful illustration for us in our marriage. If the man is against the help that the Lord God has given him, it is going to be for his destruction.
- **If the husband does not desire and use his wife's assistance, he is literally rejecting the very grace that the Lord has given him to help him lead and guide the family.**
- **Proverbs 18:1-2 "He who separates himself seeks his own desire, he quarrels against all sound wisdom. A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind."**
- As Scott says though, while husbands need, value and apply the input, they are responsible for the decision.
- "It is hard to follow someone who doesn't seem to know what he is doing. If you are not careful and biblical about your decision-making, you will most likely change direction or change decisions often. This instability does not give your wife confidence in your ability to lead. Granted, she still must follow and trust God's sovereignty, but in love you should make it as easy and enjoyable as possible for her to follow you." (Scott p. 142)
- "Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave." Luther
- This is the love that a husband and wife should have for one another.
- If you are leading your wife with love and a shepherding heart, she will desire to follow you all the days of her life.