

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MEN & WOMEN:

IN THE HOME AND IN THE CHURCH

CLASS 6: WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF MEN IN THE HOME?

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

- The goal of this series is to understand what the Bible has to say about men and women in general. Not necessarily a new controversy, but with the rise of transgenderism, homosexuality, and many other gender confusing ideologies, it is important for the Christian to know where the Bible stands.
- Before getting to the Scriptures, we are going to start with how the world views men and women. We are going to discuss the world's attack on gender and God's original design.
- Overall, we want to understand *what the world defines* as men's and women's differences, similarities, and then we are going to find out *what the Bible has to say*.
- After defining men and women from a biblical viewpoint, the rest of the classes are dedicated to viewing men and women within their respective roles.
- We are going to look at what a biblical family is, how a biblical family can influence the world around them and what some of the priorities of parents should be in their home.
- Then the final few classes we will look at what the Bible has to say specifically regarding men's and women's distinct roles, both within the church and home.
- **Here is the schedule for the upcoming lessons:**
 - January 5th: Introduction and what the World and Bible say about men and women.
 - January 12th: What is the biblical family? How can a biblical family influence society?
 - January 19th: What are the priorities of parents?
 - January 26th: What are some of the roles of women in the home?
 - February 2nd: What are some of the roles of women in the church?
 - February 9th: What are some of the roles of men in the church?
 - **February 16th: What are some of the roles of men in the home?**
 - February 23rd: What are some priorities of a husband with his wife?

INTRODUCTION¹

- If you do not know your wife and your family, you are not going to be able to effectively lead and shepherd them how the Bible says to.
- If you are not familiar with the various purposes of marriage, then you are going to be lost when it comes to lovingly leading and shepherding your family.
- In this lesson, we are going to discuss the role of men in their home. We are going to look at the man's role as a husband and a father.
- We are going to further look at how a husband is to provide and protect his family.

THE ROLE OF HUSBAND

- We now turn our attention to the most consequential human relationship you have as a married man: your relationship with your wife.²
- As husbands, you should grow in your relationship with your wife by means of getting to know her more and more.
 - This will be talked about more in the next study, but some introductory material is beneficial for our class today.

The Husband should be a good communicator.

- You do this by being there, with her, learning her interests, desires, likes and dislikes.
- You are growing in this area by communicating with your wife, having conversations with her and engaging with her when she speaks to you.
- You must, as a husband, “commit yourself to building up your wife with your words.”³
- Make sure there are no corrupt words coming out of your mouth but words that she needs to hear.
- Those words would be for edification, exhortation and showing that you love her.
- “One of the biggest obstacles to a good marriage is poor communication.”⁴
- Your marriage (and every other relationship you have) runs with communication. You must be able to communicate with people in order for anything at any time to get done.

¹ Much of the ideas of this lesson has been taken and modified from Timothy Witmer's excellent book *The Shepherd Leader at Home* and Richard Philipp's *The Masculine Mandate*. Direct quotes have been marked properly.

² Timothy Z. Witmer, *The Shepherd Leader at Home: Knowing, Leading, Protecting, and Providing for Your Family* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), Logos Bible Software edition, ch. 2.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband A Biblical Perspective* rev. ed., (Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing, 2002), 227.

- A lack of communication or poorly communicated words will not only have detrimental effects in the immediate context, but they will also plant seeds which will slowly grow over time.
- You will not be able to love, lead or learn your wife if you are not willing to properly communicate with her.
- As communication is a fruit issue, you will be able to quickly tell what is going on in your heart as you are communicating with your wife.
- To “fix” communication issues, one must be willing to do the heart work that is necessary.
- **Our inner hearts are revealed by the words which come out of our mouth.**
- **Matthew 12:34 “You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.”**
 - This is why we spend so much time on heart issues. If you are able to make sure your heart is guarded (**Pro. 4:23**), then you are more than likely to speak in such a way that is God honoring.
- Whenever you hear things coming out of your mouth (or writing online, or even thinking), you must realize that there is something else that is going on.
 - It’s not just your words that should give you a moment of pause, but where those words are coming from.
- If we have idols ruling in our hearts, they are going to ruling our tongues as well.
- We must keep a close watch on our hearts so that they are clean before the Lord.
- The interesting thing is, if we are watching our hearts, we are not worried so much about what’s coming out of our mouths.
- If we are filling ourselves with Scripture, prayer and fellowship, that’s what will come out.
- **Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”**
- The words of Christ (a.k.a. the Bible) need to dwell within us...not just dwell but *richly dwell*.
- The verb used for “dwell” is used metaphorically to mean *to well in one and influence him for good*.⁵
 - This word is only used 5 times and is always linked to something (faith) or someone (the Holy Spirit) that is actually *in* someone and causes them to do good (Rom. 8:11; 2 Cor 6:16; 2 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 1:14).
 - The linking is quite interesting, the Word, saving faith and the Holy Spirit. These three things should be filling us and are linked with one another.

⁵ “Blue Letter Bible” ἐνοικέω, n.d., <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g1774/nasb95/mgnt/0-1/>

- In other words, the Bible recognizes that there is going to be something dwelling inside of you. There is no getting away from it.
- You either have idols or Scripture.
 - You either have selfish motivations or you have God's desires on your mind.
- The only thing that can dwell in you and have a good influence is the Word of God.
- **Psalm 119:11 "Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You."**
- If you are not treasuring God's Word in our heart, you will fall prey to sinful speech. When you speak sinfully, you are not just hurting the person in front of you, you are also actively coming against God.
- What does your heart treasure? What are you storing up in your heart that will come out when you speak?
- If we don't do these things with all diligence, we are not going to be able to communicate with our wives as we are commanded to do so.
- As husbands, we should strive to control your speech.
- **James 3:2 "For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well."**
- "Anyone who can control the most difficult problem of all, the use of his tongue, ought to be able to control everything else. If the greater, then the lesser."⁶
- How do we know that James is not talking about sinless perfection in this verse? He starts by saying *for we all stumble in many ways*.
- Our words are either going to bring God glory or shame. The communication between you and your wife is not just between you and your wife. No matter what, the Lord is always there.
- You can tell how mature someone is in the faith by the words they use.
- Not so much the theological terminology, but how and what are they communicating.
- The more mature man has more of the Word of God in him so therefore more of the Word of God is going to come out of him.
- It is God alone who has given us the power to be able to bridle our tongue and have control over it.
- The reckless evil which seems to come out of our mouths can come under control.
- If you are not willing to do it with the Holy Spirit, that evil tongue will soon control you.

⁶ Jay E. Adams, *Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, and Jude, The Christian Counselor's Commentary* (Cordova, TN: The Institute for Nouthetic Studies, 2020), 190.

The Husband is a Shepherd to his family.

- It is vital to know that “in marriage, God has appointed the man to a role of spiritual and functional leadership and brought the woman along side him as a companion and compatible partner (Gen. 2:18, 20).”⁷
- Part of shepherding well is being able to lead and provide for the family. God has called the man to a high calling, but has gifted him to fulfill this calling.
- One of the ways this happens is time spent in prayer with each other.
- Husbands and wives should value their private prayer time together. This should be a time when they can sit down, discuss what happened throughout the week/day, and be able to really listen and love one another.
- This is a time when you two can come together, alone, and express your thoughts, desires, hopes, fears, and whatever else is going on.
- You not only converse with one another but also with God. This is a time of rich fellowship, a time of showing real, practical care for one another and expressing love to each other.
- Prayer time should also be a priority in overall family life, not just between a husband and wife.
- A good leader lets those whom he is leading know how things are going in the family. By sitting down regularly with the family and praying, not only will it naturally bring about conversations, but the whole family will have opportunities to make prayer requests and pray for each other.
- This gives everyone an opportunity to see the Lord working in the family.
- As the husband shepherds and provides, he also looks to his wife for help along the way. The husband is never called to lead the family by himself.
- Even though the husband is the “buck stops here” person in the family, “he would be remiss not to carefully consider his wife’s wishes, input, and opinion on the matter.”⁸
- This is why communication is vital in marriage. For the husband to lead in a godly way, he must be able to rightly communicate with his wife.
 - In turn, his wife must be willing to communicate with him as well.
- As far as discipline goes, the father is the one who will generally set the standards for the home.
- While the father should be the main disciplinarian, there will be many times (due to him at work, or something else) that the mother is called upon to take the lead in disciplining the children.
- This task should be done under the guidance of the husband. As he sets the standards for the home, the wife can then enforce them when he is not there.

⁷ Andreas and Margaret Köstenberger, *Parenting Essentials Equipping Your Children For Life* (Scotland, GB: Christian Focus Publishing House, 2020), 22.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 23.

- She is not taking the lead, but graciously following what her husband has set in place.
- The example that is set by the husband and wife will speak volumes to their kids as they live out what the Scriptures teach.

The Husband should know the worthiness of his wife.

- Even though the husband is to lead and to make sure the house is sound, the Bible gives women the same dignity and place in God's kingdom as men.
 - It is incumbent on husbands to know that even though God has placed them in a position of authority, they too have an authority over them.
 - Husbands will be held accountable for how they love and shepherd their wives. In order to do so, all husbands must understand their wife's worthiness.
- Our culture will want to sway you one way or another. It will tempt you to either think less of a woman or think that a woman is greater than a man.
 - Neither of those are true. As a person created in the image of God, your wife's standing is the same as you before Christ.
- Since our value before God is the same, it is our roles that are different, the husbands are called to lead, and the wives are called to submit.
- It is a complementary relationship where the husband and wife are both submitted to the Lord so that they are able to serve each other by pleasing Him.
 - Even though both should desire to please each other, if they are both aiming to please the Lord they are going to ultimately please each other.
- Regarding your wife's submission, the Bible never says husbands, *make your wives submit*.
 - It is up to her to do so as she is doing it unto the Lord.
 - As you lead her with love and treat her with dignity, she is going to respond with her submission.
- When your wife is submissive, it is not so that you can feel superior to her, but it is an act of love towards Christ.
 - She acknowledges that you are the head of the household and that there is an order which has been established.
- "Your leadership must be motivated by a desire to see your wife grow in holiness and to assist her in fulfilling her God-given roles of wife and mother."⁹
- If you want to lead your wife well, you must have a heart to see her flourish in her walk with the Lord.

⁹ Witmer, ch 5.

- If your only goal is to see her submit to you or to worship you as king of the household, she is going to die in her relationship with Christ and ultimately with you.
- As was stated in the beginning, our culture is pressuring your wife to look down upon motherhood, not to value her role as a wife, and to seek fulfillment outside the home.
- You as a husband must be able to lead her lovingly and patiently into holiness and help her find contentment in the high calling of being a biblical wife.
- Your wife may wear many hats throughout the day and face pressures and stresses that you can't imagine.
- By God's grace and design, he has placed you there to tenderly shepherd her through it all.

THE ROLE OF FATHER

- A father who is present in the life of his child is an anomaly.¹⁰
- Some of this was covered in our last class talking about the priorities of the parents. What we are going to discuss is a bit more in depth and focused on fatherhood.
- For some reason our culture has let dads off the hook when it comes to raising their children.
- You, as a father, have a very important role to play in the lives of your children.
- “Your goal as you lead your children is to prepare them to follow the Chief Shepherd for the rest of their lives. Therefore, your leadership should point them to the One you are following.”¹¹
- No matter what else happens to you as a father, no matter where life takes you, your top priority with your kids is to point them to Christ.
 - But it is not just about you pointing them to Christ. It is also about you making sure that your life is an example of what it looks like to follow and rely on Christ.
- This will not happen overnight but be through a series of millions of events which take place over many years as you build a relationship with your kids.
- A relationship is something that takes time and effort.
 - But it also means that you must be there with your child in order to have this relationship.
- A vibrant relationship with your kids is vital.
 - This is because you raise your children to leave you. While you love your children and at times cannot imagine your life without them present, your goal is to see them move out and start to make a life for themselves.

¹⁰ Albert Mohler, “In Defense of the Natural Family” *Albert Mohler*, n.d., <https://albertmohler.com/2005/04/07/in-defense-of-the-natural-family-2>

¹¹ Witmer, ch. 6.

- Under normal circumstances they are to learn what they need from you to move out and start their own life. Then, they do the same thing with their own kids.
- You have, as a father, much work that needs to be done in a very short amount of time.
- Your desire should be to be the primary influencer in the life of your children. That is not something that just happens, it is something that you must put diligent work into.
- Every father should have a deep desire, a longing to have his child's heart so that he may show him the way to the Lord.
- Why is it that some children seem to go astray, even when brought up with all the right Christian structure and influence? As Phillips says, "too often the answer is that he [the father] never aimed for the child's heart and, not aiming for it, never gained it."¹²
- We don't want to aim so low as to just talk about behavior that can be manipulated too seemingly, please us.
- We want our children to trust and love us so that they willingly give us their hearts as we lead them in their relationship with the Lord.
- We must resist our other passions (even though they may not be wrong) so that we can spend our very limited time gaining the trust of our children.
 - We win our child's heart by making sure they know they have ours. If our time and energy is spent away from the family on a regular basis, our kids are going to know that something else has taken precedence over and above them.

CONCLUSION

- In this teaching, we talked about some of the roles of men in the home. It is important to know your role so that the household will operate as God intended.
- The husband is to communicate well with his wife and kids.
- He is to be a good shepherd leader, knowing his wife and looking to her for support and help.
- He is also to fulfill his fatherhood duties, seeking to love his children with all his heart.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Have you thought about the high calling that God has for you as the man of the house?
- Do you value your wife, her input, and her guidance?
- Do you set the example for your children to follow after Christ as you do?

¹² Richard Phillips, *The Masculine Mandate God's Calling to Men* (Sanford, FL: Ligonier, 2010), 128.