



# A REAL MAN

*The Search for God's Definition of Manhood*



## HUSBAND AND FATHER – TWO HIGH CALLINGS OF MANHOOD



### THE COVENANT OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is the most fundamental social institution worldwide...but what is marriage?

Marriage is a lifelong covenant before God between a male and a female that involves mutual sexual rights and the context for the procreation and raising of children.

### 3 BASIC ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

#### MALE AND FEMALE



Marriage involves a man and a woman.

Read [Genesis 1:27,28 and 2:24](#) and [Matthew 19:4,5](#)

#### SEXUAL UNION

Marriage involves sexual union

Read [Genesis 2:24,25](#) and [1 Corinthians 7:2-4](#)

Marriage is God's ordained and rightful place for sexuality. God desires us to honor and respect this aspect of marriage—[Read Hebrews 13:4](#)



Sex within marriage is more than a physical act. Sex in marriage has three purposes:

- Propagation — [Genesis 1:28](#)
- Unification — [Genesis 2:24](#)
- Recreation — [Proverbs 5:18,19](#)

#### A COVENANT BEFORE GOD

It is clear from several scriptures that marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman, but more importantly it is also a covenant before God.

Read [Malachi 2:14](#), [Proverbs 2:16,17](#) and [Matthew 19:5,6](#)

This definition of Christian marriage is a summary of the material found in Norman Geisler, *Christian Ethics, Options and Issues* (Grand Rapids:MI, 1959) Chapter entitled *Marriage and Divorce* 278,279.



GOD'S DESIGN AND ORDER FOR MARRIAGE

God has given a specific design to men and women and to our roles in the marriage relationship. When we accept His design for marriage harmony in the home is not only possible, but a wonderful experience for husband and wife.

Read Ephesians 5:18-33 — Does this sound controversial to you?

Talk about our current culture's failure at marriage (50% divorce rate) and that God knows what he is doing when he gives us instructions about marriage — we clear up the confusions about this passage below.

MISTAKES WE MAKE WHEN EXAMINING GOD'S INSTRUCTION TO WIVES:

MISTAKE #1 — BAD DEFINITION

**Submission does not mean:**

- To be inferior to
- To lose your identity and become a non-person
- Blind obedience
- You should feel used
- Allowing a husband to violate the law or to be physically abusive

**Submission does mean:**

- A response to a husband with a view to God's design for marriage
- To free a husband to lead by lining yourself up with his leadership
- To empower your husband to lead by encouraging his initiative
- To honor God's Word

MISTAKE #2 — READING THIS CONCEPT OUT OF CONTEXT

**This concept is always accompanied by exhortations to husbands as well as wives.** Christian marriage should never have submission without godly "servant-leadership" of the husband. The charge to the husband is literally to be willing to "die for his wife" and put her needs above his own.

MISTAKE #3 — MEN, THIS IS NOT A VERSE FOR YOU, OR FOR YOU TO QUOTE TO ANY WOMAN

**God has given roles to men and women in order to have harmony and love in a home.** This includes exhortations to the wife from God and to the husband from God. In marriage you should not be trying to make your spouse obey God; they must obey God out of love for Him and His word.

MISTAKE #4 — KNUCKLEHEAD MEN ARE NOT DESERVING OF SUBMISSION, GODLY WOMEN SHOULD NOT MARRY ONE

Enough said. When choosing a mate, you must be in prayer before God, asking godly counsel for their thoughts and opinions (parents, pastors, and friends who have an objective view of the relationship)

MISTAKES WE MAKE WHEN EXAMINING GOD'S INSTRUCTION TO HUSBANDS:

MISTAKE #1 — BAD DEFINITION

**Leadership in marriage is not:**

- Based upon superior abilities
- Based upon society's example — "be the boss, lord it over someone" Remember we are to be Servant Kings.
- A job without duty
- Passive authority

**Leadership involves:**

- God's divine placement rather than ability
- Based on the example of Christ — as a servant
- Providing for material needs of the family
- Taking the initiative to meet needs

MISTAKE #2 — READING THIS CONCEPT OUT OF CONTEXT

This high calling to sacrificial love is always accompanied by exhortations for wives to respect the husband. Your love for your wife is not designed to make you her puppy to kick around. Your sacrifice and service to her will invoke a response to you that is in accord with the Word of God.

MISTAKE #3 — WOMEN, THESE VERSES ARE NOT FOR YOU, OR FOR YOU TO QUOTE TO ANY MAN

**You cannot "nag" a dead-beat husband into loving you sacrificially.** God has charged men to love you the way you desire to be loved. Consistently pinging on a man can drive a him further away from his responsibilities. Pray that he would submit his will to God's and love you in the way God intends.

MISTAKE #4 — MEN, GOD'S CHARGE TO YOU IS A CHARGE TO ACTION

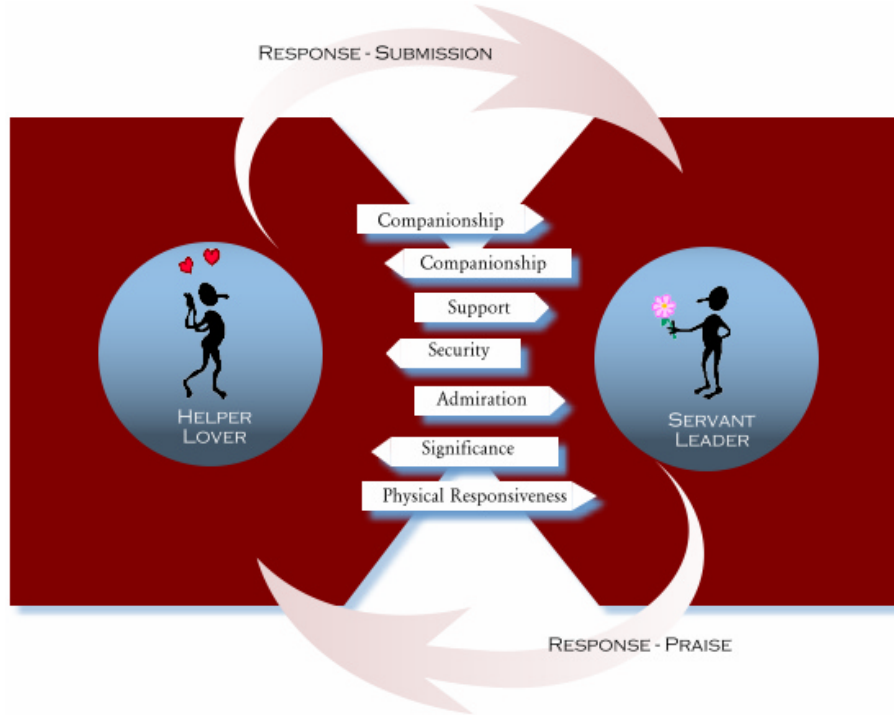
**God has not called any husband to "passively" love his wife.** The verb "love your wife" is an active verb. "Honey, You know I love you, I take the trash out, and do the weed eating" is not going to cut it. Men must learn to love their wives in ways that SHE feels loved.



**God takes this seriously:** Malachi 2:14-16



FIGURE 1: THE ROLES AND RESPONSES IN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE <sup>1</sup>



The role of husband is a role of a servant leader. The king in a man plays a role, but being a husband requires much more. We must rely on God’s power to help us live the life of the balanced 4-pillared man—Servant King, Tender Warrior, Mentor, and Friend. A godly husband is a man who pursues godly masculinity in a covenant marriage relationship with one woman for a lifetime.

LIVING WITH A WIFE

Read 1 Peter 3:7—What does it mean for us to live with a wife in an *understanding way* or *according to knowledge?*”



A man must understand and study his women to know what makes her tick, how she operates, so he can properly serve, love, and lead.

ON TEA CUPS & COFFEE MUGS

A good way to explain the “weaker vessel” or “weaker partner” phrase in this verse is to use a comparison between a plastic coffee mug and a fine china tea-cup. Ask them the question—what is the difference between the two—you may want to bring both as a visual illustration. A woman is not a coffee mug to bang around, throw in the truck etc. She is fragile and should be handled with care by a godly man.

SERVANT KING, TENDER WARRIOR, MENTOR, AND FRIEND – AVOIDING THE EXTREMES

Balance is so important in marriage for a husband who is called by God to be a Servant King in his home. Wives need a man to lead yet do not need a dictator to dominate them. Wives need someone to stand with them and fight for what is good and right, but they also need someone who will “just listen” and not try and solve all problems at once. Wives need a husband who will mentor and lead her spiritually, but he must know that she has much wisdom and experience to offer her husband in walking with Christ. Finally, a wife needs a husband who is her friend, but she also needs romance, so a man must continually love his women in such a way that she **feels** loved.

Read Song of Solomon 5:16—A man who learns to love his women by balancing his four-pillared masculinity will find that his wife will flower, grow, and prosper under his leadership.

<sup>1</sup> Diagram is an adaptation from *Rocking the Roles, Building a Win-Win Marriage* by Robert Lewis and William Hendricks 1991 NavPress p 134.



## THE ROLE OF FATHER

Living the 4 pillars at home



### SERVANT KING

Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:21

What does it mean to *exasperate* or *embitter* a kid?

To excite to anger, to cause annoyance, to cause them to be bitter. This happens when you lead as a tyrant and not as a Servant King.

There is another option given to Fathers in Ephesians 6:4; What is it and what does it mean?

Bring the up in the training and instruction of the Lord...what other role of a 4-pillared godly man is involved here? Mentor!

### TENDER WARRIOR

The Father is the shepherd of his family. What are some roles of a shepherd?

- He cares for them voluntarily
- His sheep are his priority
- He leads them visibly—he is present, not absent.
- He meets their needs—food, clothing, shelter, knowledge, spiritual guidance
- He loves them and they know it
- He protects them



Summary of material found in Family Life, "Marriage Conference Workbook" 1996 Campus Crusade for Christ p128

### MENTOR – SPIRITUAL TRAINING OF HIS CHILDREN IS THE FATHERS DUTY BEFORE GOD

Fathers are responsible for passing God's truth to the next generation.

Read Psalm 78:5-7 and Deuteronomy 6:4-9

How many people know more Moms that take the kids to church than Dads?

We have a problem when men will not lead their families spiritually. Men, take your family to church because you want to be there to worship your God, and you want them there with you.

### FRIEND – WHERE BALANCE IS NEEDED

A Father should be a friend to his children; they should trust him and look up to him. However, this too can get out of balance? How could we let the Friend pillar get out of balance with children? Read Heb 12:7-11

A Father must discipline and teach and not just be "buddy-buddy" with his kids. This is important—there must be godly rules and godly love from a Father. Discipline is received well if the children know their Father's love.

*Proverbs 17:6 — Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.*

Let this be said of you if you ever are given the blessing of children.