

Being a Man, a Husband (3)

Genesis 5:2; Psalm 127:1; Ephesians 5:18-33; I Corinthians 7:1-5, 6-40; 11:1-12; Ephesians 4:31-32; Luke 17:1-5

In no other matter is it more important to discover what is God's thought than on the topic of "man". From Genesis 1 to Revelation 22, "man" is the central focus of God's thought. He created man, He thinks about man, and He took steps into creation to show us what a real Man looks like and how to become such a man. It is by this incredible venture of God into His creation that He dwells within those who receive Him. To be a man, a person, then, is a monumental and wonderful thing. God knows that and Satan knows that. It is only we, who are the central desire of God and the central obstacle to God's enemy, who seem to not be clear.

In the Bible, "man" has more than one meaning. In the former paragraph, "man" refers to any human being, whether male or female. After creation, the first thing God did was make the two a couple to become one flesh, and He called "*their* name Adam". Now, for the purpose of this study, we will focus on the meaning of "man" as that male, the husband, within the couple.

To be a male, a man, a husband, is a great responsibility. In the home, he has a double function. The first is that of an active, *intentional role of leadership*. The second function is his *leading by a loving relationship* with his wife. Yes, as Christ is Head of the church, so man is the head of his wife; but, this is a matter of his role in responsibility, not of "macho" control or unilateral decisions. His role of leading must always be in the context of a relational atmosphere and by action of love, as we see with Christ and the church. Jesus lived to die and He died to live again with her and through her. Such a love, such a function in a home will always produce a lifestyle of peace, kindly love and wonderful purpose. Men, husbands, how are we doing in this?

Questions for prayer, consideration and fellowship:

1. What is your weak spot(s)? Does your wife know? Can you talk to her about it?
2. What are you doing to learn how to be a biblical man and a biblical husband?
3. Are you under the headship of Christ? Does this affect your wife's response to you?
4. Do you love your wife? How would she know that? Do you just assume she knows?
5. If you were a wife, would you like to live with you, the husband? Be meek, not weak.

Suggestions for a man, a husband

1. Learn from the Lord and others how to grow a godly home and lead your wife well.
2. Deal with your self firmly before expecting a lot of her. Consider some weaknesses:
 - passive*; so you let things go rather than dealing with them; care enough to act
 - demanding*; you misunderstand authority, talking "at" instead of "with" her
 - insecure*; so you control, rather than opening and including your wife and family
 - aloof*; life may be "all about you"; you are the proud lord, not the trusted servant
 - suspicious*; you hide your own habits or fears, so you assume the worst of her too
 - silent*; you expect much of your wife but won't communicate well with her
3. With words and actions, put yourself in the way of the Lord, as a man, to know Christ
4. Humble yourself and actually listen to your wife and seek out her heart for your heart.

(by Richard A. Nelson/www.Mstarpublishing.com/July 2008; with thanks to Sam Coleman and Byron Moon regarding a husband's responsible role as a servant leader lived out with his wife in a relationship of kindly love).

