

The Characters of The Christian Home Eph. 5:25-33

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Aug. 21st

REFLECTION: We've been focusing on some spiritual "home improvement" over the past few weeks. We've already examined some of the Characteristics of the Christian home as well as the "Characters" that make it up. Last week we focused on how the Husband is to Love his wife...

Unconditionally: "As Christ loved the church" Sacrificially: "and Gave himself for it" (Eph. 5)

Purposefully: "That he might sanctify and cleanse it" and

Intelligently: "dwell with them according to knowledge giving honor unto them..." 1 Peter 3:7

DIRECTION: This morning we will look at the husband's responsibility to "Lead the Family."

1. THIS IS GOD'S **PATTERN**. (Gen. 3:16,17)

1 Cor. 11:3 "the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man."

Eph. 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church."

Gen. 18:19 "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him"

Command: (1st mention) tsaw-vaw': to set in order.

A. YOU CANNOT BE A GOOD LEADER UNLESS YOU ARE A GOOD **LOVER**.

B. YOU CANNOT BE A GOOD LEADER UNLESS YOU ARE A GOOD **FOLLOWER**.

"Be followers of me, even as I am of Christ." (1 Cor 11:1) comes before

"The head of the woman is the man..." (1 Cor. 11:3)

2. THIS IS MODERN SOCIETY'S **PROBLEM**.

A. REMEMBER SATAN'S FIRST TEMPTATION TO EVE.

"Ye shall be as god's, knowing good and evil." Gen. 3:5 (We all want to determine what's best.)

B. SOCIETY HAS EMASCULATED MEN.

The feminist movement has enlisted women to "compete" with men to such an extent that they forget that they were created to "complete" them. "I will make an help meet for him." Gen. 2:18

3. DIMENSIONS OF LEADING:

Gen. 15:1-2 "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. And Abram said, Lord GOD..." Lord: from aw-done', (to rule); sovereign, controller, lord, master

As "Master" God demonstrates three responsibilities.

➤ Protection: *"Fear not... I am thy shield." Gen. 15:1*

➤ Provision: *"Thy exceeding great reward." Gen. 15:1*

➤ Direction: *"make a sacrifice... thy seed shall be ..in a land that is not theirs..." Gen. 15:9-16*

"The same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram." V's 18

God uses the same language to describe the husband's responsibilities:

1 Peter 3:1,6 "likewise ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands... Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord..." koo'-ree-os; supreme in authority, controller.

Lord here is the Greek equivalent of the Old Testament Adonai!

Husbands have the same primary responsibilities as the leader of the Home.

A. **PROVISION**: 1 Tim. 5:8 *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."*

B. **PROTECTION**: Mark 3:25-27 *"No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house."*

Dad, Satan wants to “spoil” your house (and family) (Jn. 10:10)

Pr. 5:22 “His own iniquities shall take the wicked, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.”

1) What is Satan using to tie you up?

➔ **Immorality?** (pornography) (context of Pr. 5:22)

➔ **Pride?** Pr. 29:23 “A man’s pride shall bring him low:”

➔ **Fear?** (inadequacy) Pr. 29:25 “The fear of man bringeth a snare:”

➔ **Business:** Mt. 6:33 “Seek first the kingdom of God...and all these things shall be added”

➔ **Indifference?** 1 Peter 4:17 “t judgment must begin at the house of God:”

John 8:31,32 “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

C. DIRECTION: Eph. 6:4 “but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

1) Men, God chose you to lead your family!

Ps. 78:70,72 “He chose David also his servant... So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.”

➤ **Fed:** raw-aw‘ : **Shepherded.** (Ps. 23)

➤ **Integrity:** tome; completeness, Clean! (1 Tim. 1:5)

➤ **Guided:** naw-khaw‘: to guide or govern. (Pr. 3:5,6)

➤ **Skillfulness:** tab-oon‘: Wisdom: See Pr. 9:10; Jms 1:5

Where are you leading your family?

Daddy had a little boy, His soul was white as snow.
He never went to Sunday School Cause Daddy wouldn't go.
He never heard the Word of God. That thrills the childish mind,
While other children went to class, This child was left behind.
As he grew from babe to youth, Dad saw to his dismay,
A soul that once was snowy white, Became a dingy grey.
Realizing that his son was lost, Dad tried to win him back.
But now the soul that once was white, Had turned an ugly black.
Dad even started back to church, and Bible study too;
He begged the preacher, "Isn't there a thing you can do?"
The preacher tried, failed, and said "We're just too far behind;
I tried to tell you years ago, But you would pay me no mind."
And so another soul was lost, That once was white as snow;
Sunday School would have helped, But Daddy wouldn't go.

It is said that Cyrus, the founder of the Persian Empire, once had captured a prince and his family. When they came before him, the monarch asked the prisoner, "What will you give me if I release you?" "The half of my wealth," was his reply. "And if I release your children?" "Everything I possess." "And if I release your wife?" "Your Majesty, I will give myself." Cyrus was so moved by his devotion that he freed them all. As they returned home, the prince said to his wife, "Wasn't Cyrus a handsome man!" With a look of deep love for her husband, she said to him, "I didn't notice. I could only keep my eyes on you-
-the one who was willing to give himself for me."

A newspaper columnist named George Crane told once of a woman who was full of hatred toward her husband. Someone counseled the woman to act as if she really loved her husband, to tell him how much he meant to her, to praise him for every decent trait, to be kind, considerate, and generous whenever possible. Then, when she'd fully convinced him of her undying love, she'd make her move and file for divorce. With revenge in her eyes she said, "That's perfect, I'll do it." And so she did...but guess what happened...the more she demonstrated sacrificial love toward her husband, the more she began to actually love him, and at the end of a few months divorce was the furthest thing from her mind.