

J.J.

MAN OF THE HOUSE

Ephesians 5 21-33

Ephesians 5: 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

[PRAY FOR THE GRADUATES]

[PRESENT AGAIN TIMELINE and Update on Name Change]

Guinness Book of World Record

(Show photo) Percy and Florence Arrowsmith tied the knot in June of 1925.

In June 2005, the Guinness Book of World Records said that Percy and Florence Arrowsmith held two records—the longest marriage of a living couple (80 years) and having the largest married couple’s aggregate age (205 years). Percy was 105 and Florence was 100 years old at that time.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Arrowsmith have since died, but they left good advice for those who want to have a lasting marriage. Florence said, “You must never go to sleep bad friends. If you’ve had a quarrel, you make it up. Never be afraid to say, ‘sorry’.”

Percy had slightly more humorous advice. He said the secret to his long marriage was just two words, “Yes, dear.”

The title of this sermon is “Man of the House”. The Bible is very clear that God designed both man and woman differently from each other. Man and woman are equal but different. Different roles. In fact, our differences “complement” each other.

Before I preached through Genesis that the role of the woman when it comes to the family is that they are a partner, helper and life-bearer (or nurturer).

Today, we’ll study the role of the “Man of the house”. **PRAY FIRST**

The man is the Leader, Lover and Provider.

I. LEADER

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything

Now before I explain the role of the man of the house as Leader, we have to remember that the foundation of great relationships is found in verse 21.

Ephesians 5: 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Etymology : Submit “hupotasso” “hupo” under “tasso” to appoint, to assign, This is a military term.

Note : In the military term, it means, to fall into rank; OR ASSUME YOUR ROLES OR POSITIONS.

Note : Why is it critical to fall into rank when it comes with the military? Because it is crucial that if we are to be successful in the mission and lessen the casualties.

Quote : “The biblical viewpoint is about as diametrically opposed to that of the world as it could be. If you want to follow God and His Word on this subject, you must consciously throw off the worldly mindset and decisively submit to what God’s Word plainly states.

So the world’s way is, “Assert yourself! Stand up for your rights! You don’t have to take such treatment! Get an attorney to fight for your rights!” God’s way is, “submit to one another in the fear of Christ.” These views are at polar opposites!”

– Steven J. Cole

Illustration: One of the series, I went to was preaching the entire letter of Paul to the Ephesians and then it came to this series of submission. One of the church members shared it with her workmate who is a woman and she shared that she was almost aghast and violent about it, saying, “Why would I submit to my husband...we’re both equals”. Yes, we are equals but this is not a subject about equality, it’s the subject of design.

Imagine, a company or an organization where all are leaders? Imagine a church, where all are pastors or elders? Imagine a body where all are heads? That’s a monster.

You know the problem of the world : this is their view of Submission (photo of wrestling)
But the Christian view of Submission is this : (husband and wife loving each other)

The Man of the House is the Leader of the House

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church

Etymology: head “kephale”, it literally means the head of the body.

Most of the time, it's used in phrases when someone is being punished when they cut off the head.

It means when you cut off the head, it destroys the life of the body.

No wonder, one of Satan's attacks to the family is to target the "head" of the family.

If you destroy the head, it destroys the family.

Whatever happens Illustration: One of the things that my wife will always remind me if I'm losing faith or if she suspects I'm under temptation, she tells me, "Tandaan mo, ano man ang mangyari sa iyo, damay kami at ng mga anak mo." (Remember, whatever happens to you, me and your children are also affected.)

Etymology 2: That's why it's interesting to note that the other meaning for "kephale" or head is CORNERSTONE.

You can see that applied in Acts 4:11 and 1 Peter 2:7

Acts 4:11 "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone. (kephale eis gonia – head of the corner)

(Show photo of cornerstone) If you have been a Christian long enough, we all know the meaning of the cornerstone when it comes to a building. It's the first stone that is laid. It sets the direction to how a house is built. That's how crucial the role is.

Etymology 3: Now the other meaning of "kephale" is "lord".

Note : Now, it doesn't mean that man of the house is the head, you can say with abandon, "I'm the head of the household and whatever I say, goes" (Ako ang masusunod).

Remember,

*For the husband is the head of the wife **as Christ is the head of the church***

Fathers, husbands, we don't look at our design as the leader not as a position of power but as a position of responsibility and accountability.

We lead the family, we direct the family based on how our Lord leads and directs His church.

How does the Lord lead and direct us.... With love!

II. LOVER

25 Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Let me tell you this.

Quote: “A leader who doesn’t lead with love will tend to abuse his authority”

To the man of the house, you should write this somewhere you can see it everyday or tattoo it somewhere in your body these words. “Lead with love.”

How?

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Etymology : love “agapao” – selfless, sacrificial, unconditional.

IT’S A SACRIFICIAL KIND OF LOVE.

Note : We’ve heard these Greek word several times and we already know what it means... It is a kind of love that doesn’t say, “I love you because I have to.” It is saying “I love you because I chose to.”

Note : If you ask several husbands, “Do you love your wife?” The usual answer would be “Yes, I love her so much.”

Then : You can ask them, “Do you love them as Christ loves his church?”

How did Christ loved His church? He gave up His life for the church.

It’s a sacrificial kind of love... it’s a kind of love that gives up “self”.

Best friend Illustration: I always hear husbands say that “my wife is my best friend.” But how do you love your friend and in this case, your friend?

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

How do we lead with love?

It’s not about what I want but what’s best for my wife and my children.

And What is the best thing for my wife and my children? It’s to lead them to our Lord Jesus Christ.

*to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to **present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless***

Note : I’ve always shared with this church that they are the spiritual leader of the home. They are the pastor of their family.

Activity : Wife or children, look at your husband or your dad and call them “Pastor _____”

Now what do we mean by this? Men, it means when it comes to the spiritual growth of your family, it is our responsibility to make sure that their relationship with Jesus Christ grows in knowledge and in love.

That's the most loving thing we can do for them. And it starts with us, not only with our words but with our actions.

Let's look at how the Bible says what pastors are.

*1 Peter 5: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.** 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

Man of the house, we lead and love our family to Christ by an example. God has entrusted them to us!!!

And how do we lead our family to Christ? WITH HIS WORD!

to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word

And this is the reason, we bring our family to church, it's because the church is the place where we hear and listen to God's Word.

Oliver Illustration: One of the most inspiring moments in my life as a pastor is there is a member of the church whose name is Oliver. He suffered a stroke that almost took his life but God's grace, he survived but left his speech slurring and he can't even walk properly and his left hand can't even move or grasp properly. But during this time, his children still drove from Richmond Hill to Brampton to attend church. The most inspiring moment came is when one Lord's Day, he surprised everyone by attending church even if he was still having a hard time walking with a cane in his hand, wobbly and leading his family to attend church. He could have just said to his wife and kids, you go attend church, I will just watch in Facebook Live. No, he was an example to his "flock" and attended church "live" even with his condition. Remember, they live in Richmond Hill and the church is here in Brampton. Now God has fully healed him. Praise the Lord!

Remember, that's the highest form of love we can give our family is when we lead them to the One who loves us the most – Jesus Christ.

*and to **present her to Himself** as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless*

III. PROVIDER

*28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, **but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church**— 30 for we are members of his body.*

The two words “feed and care ” means, we need to provide for their needs physically and emotionally.

- **Feed “trepho” to feed; to fatten;**

Ice breaker : So husbands, when your wife looks at the mirror and asks you “tumataba ba ako, honey” (Am I getting fat, honey?)... Be proud but don’t ever say “yes”...LOL

In short, it is our job to feed our family.

Note : Right from the start, God has implied in the Bible that it is the man’s primary duty to “look for food” (Genesis 3:16-19)

Genesis 3

16 To the woman he said,

*“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.*

*Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”*

*17 To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about
which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’*

*“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.*

*18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.*

*19 By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are*

- **Care “thalpo” : care; cherish “ thalpo” to keep warm, to warm, to cherish with tender love**

A lot of men think that when they provide for their family, their job is done. The Bible says that we need to cherish our wife with TLC - Tender Loving Care

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Sometimes, us men, we only treat our wives with TLC if we want something in return, like sex or food or etc.

Look at the five major needs of women :

- 1) Affection**
- 2) Conversation**

Note : A survey was taken and it was said that on average a wife needs to spend a significant amount of time everyday of meaning conversation with the husband. But when the husbands were asked, how much time he needs to have a meaningful conversation with the wife – 15 – 20 minutes, once or twice a week.

STORY: A husband read an article to his wife about how women use 30,000 words a day to a man's 15,000. The wife replied, "That's because we have to repeat everything to men." The husband turned to his wife and said, "What?"

- 3) **Honesty and openness**
- 4) **Financial support**
- 5) **Family commitment**

Now, look at this, we cannot do this, lead our family, love our family and care for our family if we don't make them our priority.

³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Q: Why is Adam and Eve the happiest couple that ever lived?

A: Because they don't have any in-laws.

What the Bible is saying here is that when we get married, our first priority is our wife and our children.

I'm not saying we abandon our parents or we do not take care of our parents specially if they are old and is now having challenges taking care of themselves. That's not the case here.

Illustration : Queen of the house

Before when we weren't married, we all know that the queen of the house is our mother. But when you're already married, the queen of your house is already your wife, the mother of your kids.

³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself

Looking after for No. 1 Illustration : There's a saying in the world right now, that we must always look after No.1. (it means self). The Bible says, love our wife as we love ourselves. So it means, our wife must be our #1 priority.

As a father, your wife and your children (in short, your family) must be on top of the list.

Do not sacrifice your relationship with your family for the sake of your work, your career or for any other reason...second to the Lord, our wife is PRIORITY #1.

Research is already showing that when men prioritize their wife, the benefits are more for the children.

This is the reason why Theodore Hershberg is correct when he says :

Quote : “The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.”

Now, let me share you a secret. All of these, being a leader, a lover and provider of the household can only be done if we do this one thing.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church

25 Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church

29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church

To be a good leader, lover and provider of the family, there is only one thing we need to do – FOCUS ON FOLLOWING CHRIST!

Now let me end with this :

There's this movie that I love called “Shall We Dance?” The movie is about John and Beverly Clark, a couple who've been married for almost 20 years. They have a good life together, two children, and a loving marriage. But John is in a rut and he doesn't know why or how to get out of it. So one day, he started taking “ballroom dancing” lessons. After office, the husband John would go study ballroom dancing and so he'll come home late. He was too embarrassed to tell it to his wife because he's middle aged man taking ballroom dancing. The wife thought he was cheating and hired a private investigator. The private investigator, then reported that the husband wasn't cheating, he was taking ballroom dancing. So the wife Beverly Clark met with the private investigator to tell him not to follow his husband anymore. When she met with the private investigator, she asked rhetorically, “*Why do you think people get married?*” The P.I. replied, “*Passion*”. Beverly, the wife said, “No. “*We marry because we need a witness to our lives. There's a billion people on the planet... I mean, what does any one life really mean? But in a marriage, you're promising to care about everything. The good things, the bad things, the terrible things, the mundane things... all of it, all of the time, every day. You're saying 'Your life will not go unnoticed because I will notice it. Your life will not go un-witnessed because I will be your witness'.*”

The reason why I ended with this is because husbands, fathers who are leaders, lovers, and providers of the home...what is your wife and children witnessing in your life right now?

How are we going to be remembered?

I pray that we will be remembered as the “Man of the House”. But most importantly, you will be remembered as the “Man of God in the House”.

God bless you all husbands and fathers! May you be remembered the Lord's Man in the House.

[PRAY FOR THE FATHERS]

S.G.D.