

Message Series: Making Marriage Work

“The Husband’s Core Role in Marriage” Part 2

Introduction:

1. God created **two** different genders to fulfill **two** different roles in marriage.
2. A “role” is the essential **function** that God has designed a man or woman to fulfill in a marriage relationship.
3. Each partner must fulfill his/her God-given role. The understanding of this will determine the **quality** of life the couple will enjoy.
4. Here’s what we want to explore from the Scriptures in this lesson:
 - What is the man’s core role in the marriage relationship?
 - How does God expect him to fulfill that role?

I. The husband’s core role: providing **leadership** in the home

- A. The Scriptures are very clear that the husband’s core role in the home is one of **headship**.
Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 11:3
- B. The Bible paints the idea of male headship with:
 1. Responsibility, not **rank**.
 2. Sacrifice, not **selfishness**.
 3. Duty, not **domination**.

II. Two different leadership styles that husbands employ:

- A. The **lording** leader in Genesis 3:16
- B. The **servant** leader in Luke 22:25-27
 1. **Jesus** taught and lived the concept of servant leadership.
 2. In God’s kingdom, to be the “**head**” is to be this unique blend of leader and servant.

III. What does a lording leader look like, as opposed to a servant leader?

A. Decision-making

1. The lording leader loves to give _____. He makes _____ the decisions and everyone else just carries out his directives.
2. The servant leader seeks to _____ what others in the family think. His chief concern is to do what is best for _____ involved.
 - *“He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.” Proverbs 18:13*

B. Understanding the wife’s needs

1. The lording leader knows _____ about his wife’s feminine needs.
2. The servant leader seeks to _____ his wife better.
 - *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” 1 Peter 3:7*

C. Conflict

1. The lording leader becomes _____ when his wife challenges him with her thoughts and views.
2. The servant leader is interested in arriving at the _____, and values his wife’s input.
 - *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.” 2 Timothy 2:24*

D. Strengths and weaknesses

1. The lording leader loves to point out the flaws and failures of his wife.
2. The servant leader focuses on what is right and _____ about his wife. He constantly _____ her, emphasizing her significance and importance in his life. Ephesians 5:25

E. Power

1. The lording leader pushes and manipulates his wife. He _____ her to get his way.
2. The servant leader refuses to resort to intimidation, but has set his heart to _____ what she thinks is best for the marriage.
Ephesians 5:28

F. Spiritual direction

1. The lording leader is conspicuously _____ in this area. The wife must set the spiritual tone of the household.
2. The servant leader set the _____ tone in his home. Ephesians 6:4

21 Ways to be a Servant Leader

1. A servant leader includes his wife in envisioning the future.
2. A servant leader accepts spiritual responsibility for his family.
3. A servant leader is willing to say, "I'm sorry," and "Forgive me," to his family.
4. A servant leader discusses household responsibilities with his wife and makes sure these are fairly distributed.
5. A servant leader seeks the consultation of his wife on all major financial decisions.
6. A servant leader follows through with commitments he has made to his wife.
7. A servant leader frequently tells his wife what he likes about her.
8. A servant leader provides financially for his family's basic living expenses.
9. A servant leader deals with distractions so that he can talk with his wife and family.
10. A servant leader prays with his wife on a regular basis.
11. A servant leader initiates meaningful family traditions.
12. A servant leader initiates fun outings for the family on a monthly basis, or even more often.
13. A servant leader takes the time to give his children practical instruction about life which, in turn, gives them confidence with their peers.
14. A servant leader goes over the upcoming week with his wife to clarify their schedule and anticipate any pressure points.
15. A servant leader keeps the family out of debt.
16. A servant leader makes sure he and his wife have drawn up a will and arranged a well-conceived plan for their children in case of death.
17. A servant leader lets his children into the interior of his life.
18. A servant leader praises his wife often in public.
19. A servant leader explains sex to each child in a way that gives him or her a wholesome perspective.
20. A servant leader encourages his wife to grow as an individual.
21. A servant leader takes the lead in establishing with his wife clear and well-reasoned convictions on issues such as alcohol, debt, child discipline, allowable movies and television programming, and so on. (These and other choices are too often left undefined in today's homes, with consequences.)