

# Called to Lead

## *What the Bible says about Men and Leadership*

### “Love ‘em and Lead ‘em”

The Bible gives men two basic commands in regard to their spouses:

#### **Lead them**

*Ephesians 5:22-24* – “Wives, be in subjection unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, and Christ also is the head of the church, being himself the saviour of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives also be to their husbands in everything.”

#### **Love them**

*Ephesians 5:25-30* – “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Even so ought husbands also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his own wife loveth himself: for no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as Christ also the church; because we are members of his body.” (KJV)

### The Responsibility to Lead

#### Where did this responsibility come from?

Read *Genesis 3:1-7*



Who was the first one to eat? – *Eve.*

Did anything happen when she ate? – *Nothing is mentioned in the scriptures.*

What happened when Adam ate of the fruit? – *They realized they were naked.*

Why did this happen? (see *Genesis 2:16-17* and *Romans 5:12* below) – *Adam was the one who was responsible before God. When Adam ate, mankind fell.*

*Romans 5:12* – “Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned.” (KJV)

Read *Genesis 3:16*.

Where did man’s responsibility to lead the home come from? – *God gave this responsibility*

Did God give man this responsibility because he was better than woman? – *No.*

### The Potential to Lead

*Genesis 18:17-19* – “The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.” (NASU)

What does this passage imply about Abraham’s potential to lead his home? – *God anticipated that Abraham could and would successfully lead his home in a godly way.*

Does God give us commands that are impossible for us to fulfill? (Philippians 4:13) – *No. All commands from God are possible through Him.*

Based on Philippians 4:13, what is the key to being able to lead your household? – *The key is Christ. We must look to Him for our ability. We must be saved to have access!*

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Look at the following biblical qualification for a Pastor:

*1 Timothy 3:4-5* – “one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity [dignity]; (but if a man knoweth not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)” (KJV)

Being a good leader at home is a requirement for being a leader at church. Why do you think God made this a qualification? – *Just because we have the potential to lead doesn't mean we always fulfill it. God wants a man who is living up to his potential. Also, the way you lead your home and the way you lead a church are very similar.*

*Joshua 24:15* – “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (KJV)

What does Joshua's statement imply about his belief in his ability to lead his home? – *It appears that Joshua believes in his potential (through the Lord's help) to lead his home in a godly way.*

The road to becoming a good leader in the home begins by believing that you can accomplish this task through Christ.

### **The Way to Lead**

We are talking about leadership in the home today. However, remember the other command to husbands? LOVE THEM!! The path to leadership is through love. We need to lovingly lead our wives.

### **Our model for leadership**

Re-read *Ephesians 5:22-25* and answer the following questions:

How are we to love our wives? – *We are to love our wives as Christ loved the Church*

How are we to lead our wives? – *We are to lead our wives as Christ leads the Church*

### **Leading like Christ**

Throughout the Bible, we see God's model leadership portrayed in the humble task of shepherding. Some of the Bible's greatest leaders, such as Moses and David, spent time as shepherds. Jesus leads as a shepherd, and is referred to as the Chief Shepherd by scriptures. Some of the most direct commandments on leadership come from Peter as he talks about pastoring. As we saw earlier, the way one would pastor a church and lead a home are connected (see *1 Timothy 3:4-5*). Both are to follow the principles of shepherding. Look at this following passage:

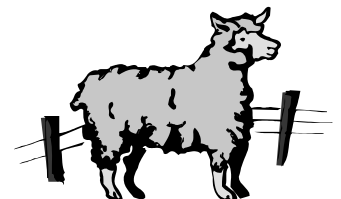
*1 Peter 5:1-4* – “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: (1) Feed the flock of God which is among you, (2) taking the oversight thereof, (3) not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; (4) Neither as being lords over God's heritage, (5) but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” (KJV)

(1) Feed – *Shepherd, tend*

(2) Oversight – *to watch over, be a guardian for, or take care of*

(3) Not by constraint (*obligation*), but willingly (*because you want to*).

Who forced you to get married? – *Probably no one. You willingly assumed this responsibility and you should willingly carry it out!*



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Why does your attitude make a difference? – *Your attitude is communicated to your family by either the things you say, the way you speak, or by your body language. (Bart's communication class) A willing leader is a strong leader.*

### (4) No Dictators!

“Lording over” refers to a domineering, dictatorship. It is a type of leadership that should be foreign to Pastors and Leaders in the home. Read the following passage:

*Matthew 20:25-28* – “But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (KJV)

Biblical leadership isn't done on a throne. It is done in the dirt!

### (5) Leading by Example

The word for, “example” means form, figure, or pattern. It is the root from which we get our English word, “type”. It means that a Pastor (or in our case a leader in the home) is to lead by example. He is supposed to be the spiritual mold into which the people he leads can be poured and formed.

#### Jesus' Leadership

*John 13:34* – “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” (KJV)

Jesus redefined love and became our example to follow.

#### Ezra's Leadership

*Ezra 7:10* – “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.” (KJV)

Ezra first *learned* the Word, then *lived* it, and finally he *led* others with the Word. This is God's pattern for leaders and it is the only one that will succeed.



Fill in the blanks.,.

If I want my wife to be more loving ... *I should love her*

If I want my wife to be more humble ... *I should be more humble*

If I want my children to accept responsibility ... *I must accept responsibility*

If I want my children to control their temper ... *I must control my temper*

If I want my wife to be more willing to follow ... *I must be more willing to lead*

Being a husband and a father isn't for followers. It isn't a job where you try to verbally inspire your family or sit in your chair and fire out orders. It is the place to lead ... not just by word, but by example.