

Men's Training – March 2018 – Husbands

INTRODUCTION

- Give away books
- Check-in on reading scripture and evangelizing
- Honor one another

A CASCADING LOVE AFFAIR

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. —1 Corinthians 11:3

The Trinity & Marriage

Father, you loved me before the creation of the world — John 17:24

The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands — John 3:35

The Father loves the Son and shows him all he does — John 5:20

The Lover & the Beloved

“The shape of the Father-Son relationship begins a gracious cascade, like a waterfall of love: as the Father is the lover and the head of the Son, so the Son goes out to be the lover and the head of the church.”—Michael Reeves in *Delighting In The Trinity*

The Husband/The Lover

“Godly men will serve their way (not insist on their way) into marital leadership.” – Jonathan Dodson

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. – Ephesians 5:26-30

1. Under authority – Ladies, don't consider marrying a man who is not submitted to Jesus. He will be a dangerous man. A man who does not live under authority should not be in authority. He doesn't submit to Jesus, to others as Ephesians 5 discusses, to church leaders, to civil law. He's a lone ranger in authority but not under authority. That is dangerous. I've seen too many situations of domestic and sexual abuse happen with a man who chooses not to live under authority.

Who will you appeal to when things go wrong? When he won't listen to you? When he is abusive? When he will not repent?

2. In authority – uses his power to love like Jesus. He dies and lives for like Jesus. He is the head of the wife that graciously loves and serves like Jesus. Initiates like Jesus. He nourishes, promotes growth. He cherishes, holds precious.

How does you operate in authority now? How do you treat those who you are leading?

As tasks or people?

Jesus fulfills the three Old Testament offices of prophet, priest, and king.

3. As prophet – “stand firm in the faith.” The prophet knows God's truth and why he believes it. He speaks and applies truth to himself first and foremost and then to those under his leadership. You could consider this as **proclamation**.

Tools: Read your bible, pray, listen to biblical teaching on your commute (Reformed Theological Seminary app, Wayne Grudem's Sytematic Theology on iTunes, White Horse Inn podcast), read books about God, tell your wife what God is teaching and showing you, lead in repenting first. *Story about repenting first. Not an equation where you repent first and she will automatically follow.*

4. As priest – “let all that you do be done in love.” The priest intentionally pursues relationship with his wife and children. He intercedes on their behalf in prayer and lives sacrificially, placing their needs above his. You could consider this as **presence**.

Tools: Ask questions to get to know your wife and listen for how you can serve her. “Slow to speak, quick to listen.” Pray for her not to impress or manipulate her. Say “no” to yourself with increasing frequency. Place her needs above yours. Keep hands to yourself, your words honest, and your thoughts and motives pure.

5. As king – “ Be watchful. Act like men. Be strong.” A king looks for ways to honor and protect those under his care. He creates a vision for the future and leads others in that direction. He is so strong he can be kind, gentle, and humble. He has advisors in his life, men who speak truth to him. You could this as **process**.

Tools: Plan time together, don't spend it haphazardly or alone with just the two of you. Get out of debt. Get a job with benefits. Create a budget and a plan for the future. Get help if you don't know how to do this. Be in community with other men. Protect her heart. Fight temptation and the enemy. Coordinate a personal schedule. Take responsibility for your actions. Be accountable to others.

Embrace these:

- *Sexually/emotionally – pursue her outside the bedroom*
- *Time – be intentional with your time together*
- *Spiritually – talk to her about Jesus*
- *Community – live in community*
- *Repentance – practice a lifestyle of repentance*

Avoid these:

- Pride
- Cowardice
- Mr. Fixit
- Shame

- Defensiveness
- Blame-shifting
- Selfishness
- Isolation

Honor Your Wife:

- “Honor your wife physically by being safe for her, protective of her, and tender with her. In this way she will see your physical strength as a blessing instead of a danger.”
- “Honor your wife emotionally by knowing her, being known, opening up to her, being passionate, loving, and honest. Share your emotions, what’s going on inside of you as well as explore her emotionally.”
- “Honor your wife verbally by encouraging her and praising her character not only her looks. Speak honestly, respectfully, and lovingly. She is not one of the guys. God hears everything; you are not getting away with anything.”
- “Honor your wife financially by working hard, making money, and stewarding it well.”
- “Honor your wife technologically by being present with your wife, connecting with her, and cultivating her rather than ignoring her.”

Questions

What ways do you serve your wife as prophet, priest, king?

OR

How do you live with your wife in an understanding way?

Share best practices

PORTRAIT OF A GODLY HUSBAND

A portrait shows what something looks like. This is an attempt to display a godly husband by our friends at the Association of Biblical Counselors.

A godly husband is fully submitted to Christ. He loves his wife sacrificially. He seeks diligently to understand his wife. He lovingly teaches her the truth of God’s word both overtly and through his conduct. He is concerned about the spiritual well being of his wife, and prays for her and with her on a regular basis. He does not rule over his wife or family; instead, he is there to serve not be served. Even as he leads, he is the biggest servant in the family. He follows through on his commitments to his wife and children. He finds joy in serving his wife and family.

He takes seriously his responsibility to lead and shepherd his family knowing that it is to the Lord he must give an account. He listens attentively to his wife so as to grow in his knowledge of her. He realizes his wife is not “one of the boys” and treats her with gentleness at all times. He places the interest of his wife above his own.

He is self-controlled, not easily angered, kind, and humble. He is not ruled by alcohol or other forms of intoxication. He does not indulge ungodly passions; instead he buffets and disciplines his body to bring it under the authority of God and His word. He is ruled by Christ and places himself completely under His authority. He is not wise in his own eyes but relies on the wisdom of God as revealed in His word. He

does not lean on his own understanding. His decisions and actions flow from his study and meditation on God's Word, rather than from his own desires.

He takes great pleasure in his wife's body and makes love to her joyfully, frequently and unselfishly and is faithful to her. He recognizes that his body is not his own but also belongs to his wife. He uses his speech to edify and build up his wife and children. He guards his tongue, using it for blessing rather than cursing. He joyfully and abundantly provides for the financial needs of his family. He praises his wife to her and others and treats her as a precious treasure. His life reflects the fruit of the Spirit as found in Galatians 5. He is a God-pleaser not a man-pleaser.

Check it out in Scripture! Ephesians 5, 1 Corinthians 13, Proverbs 31, Colossians 3, 1 Peter 3, 1 Timothy 3, 5 and others!

COHORT QUESTIONS

How long have you been married?

Brief history.

How is your sexual purity?

What is your wife telling you currently?

What sin(s) do you need to confess and repent of to God and your wife?

In what areas do you believe God wants you to grow as a husband?

What specific steps will you start taking to address these areas in your marriage?