

Bible Homes Part II

The Husband and Father

Introduction:

Time spent in the home comprises the majority of our day. Home is where we eat, sleep, clean, receive spiritual and secular instruction, apply discipline, nurture, pray, and develop life relationships. God reveals specific functions to be accomplished within the home. Spiritual (Eph. 6:4) and secular [work ethic] (II Thess. 3:10-12) education are to be administered by the parents. The husband is commanded to love his wife (Eph. 5:28) as the wife is to love her husband (Titus 2:4). The founding principle of a Bible home is faith in Jesus Christ (Heb. 11:6). Another founding principle of the home is that the man is to be head of the wife. This lesson shall examine the man within the home. When all family members respect God's order in the home then truly home will be a happy place to be.

I. Roles exists in each family:

- A. Role = "proper or customary function; the kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, etc. the purpose for which something is designed or exists" (AHD 1068).
- B. Humanism seeks to change God appointed roles and functions of the husband, wife, and children. In an article titled, "The Myth of the 'Normal' family," the author states, "Trying to conform to a single version of family life is not just doomed to failure, but unnecessary" (USA Today Magazine, Jan. 2001).

II. The Word of God tells us that the man is the Head of the Home:

- A. No matter what day and age we may live in... like it or not... the Word of God explains to us that each person in the family has a role.
- B. God has 'designed' the man as the "head" of the family (I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-23):
 - 1. "Head" = "the head, superior, chief, principal, one to whom others are subordinate" (Moulton 229). "In the case of living beings, to denote superior rank... of the husband in relation to his wife (AG 430). "Anything supreme, chief, prominent; of persons, master, lord" (Thayer 345). "The one who holds the position of leadership and authority" (ISBE; Vol. 2 pp. 640).
 - 2. Clearly these definitions help us to see that the husband and father within the home rules supreme over the wife and children.
- C. What does ruling supreme mean?
 - 1. The husband / father will 'lead' in the area of each family member understanding their roles within the home (Eph. 5:22-6:4).
 - 2. He will lead in loving his wife and giving her cause to love him in return (Eph. 5:28; Titus 2:4).
 - 3. He will take the lead in dwelling with his wife in an "understanding" way (I Pet. 3:7).
 - 4. He will take the lead in providing his children with a spiritual education (Eph. 6:4).
 - 5. He will take the lead in providing his children with a secular education (II Thess. 3:7-13).
 - 6. He will take the lead in providing discipline to the children (Prov. 3:11-12; Heb. 12:9-11).
 - 7. Nurturing the children (Eph. 6:4).
 - 8. The husband / father is the head over the physical aspects of the home as well (financial decisions).

III. The Husband / Father's contribution to the Home:

- A. A Husband / Father who has faith in the Lord and understands his role within the home will promote glory to the name of Jehovah God (Jn. 15:8-10).

- B. He will have a home where the wife knows his love (I Pet. 3:7).
- C. His children will honor, respect, and fear him (Eph. 6:2).
- D. When he is leading as God would have him the family will gladly follow and the home will be a joyous and happy abode.

Conclusion:

Though the Lord designated divine roles in the home for the husband, wife, and children that does not mean that we are to conclude that God loves or respects the man / husband over others (Gal. 3:28). When one stops viewing God's roles as demeaning and with clarity sees His divine purpose, all will accept their current role and not complain. The father is the head (leader) of the house whose word stands supreme. The father leads the home to achieve its authorized function with a spirit of love. The effective husband and father will be a contagious influence on other family members. Young boys will want to be like dad. Young girls will want to one day marry one like dad. Wives will have no difficulty in submitting, honoring, and fearing their husbands. Truly God has given the man as a beginning building block within the home. Let each of us who are husbands and fathers uphold with zeal the Word of God and the Lord's plan for us and our families will succeed. Our children will become Christians and honor us. Our wives will love, honor, submit and fear us as God has commanded. The home will be a happy dwelling place that brings glory to the name of Jehovah God.