

THE HUSBAND, THE FATHER, THE MAN OF GOD

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Marriage is not only about love, but about God, responsibility, leadership, training and raising of godly children and fulfilling of God given purpose in the bond of peace and unity. Many do not understand this, and as a result, fail to achieve God's purpose – marriage fails and children not well trained in God's way.

The man has three roles in marriage, and these roles must be well understood and played for success to be attained. In this chapter we are going to discuss these roles.

1. HUSBAND

The foundation of the husband and wife relationship is love. Every effort must be made by all to make sure the love that brought them together does not go sour or bitter, but remain sweet. Sometimes, raising children can bring a strain on a marriage. Love must be preserved by every means possible within the limits of God's word.

The most important human relationship in a man's life is his relationship with his wife which comes after his relationship with his God and Maker. Before a man becomes a father, he is first a husband, so his children must not take the first place in his life. The husband must see his wife as he sees himself and treat her so.

Gen 2:21-25

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

NIV

Eph 5:21-33

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as 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 his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, 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.

NIV

Husbands must love their wives as Jesus loves the church, while the wives must submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ. This is God's plan for peace and harmony in the home. Anything other than this will ruin the marriage. In love be patient with her and overlook her offences against you. Be intimate with her. Trust her and make yourself trustworthy and reliable so she will feel secure and not threatened. Be there for your wife when she needs you. In love stand up for her and defend her at all times, especially before your relatives. Create an atmosphere that will enable her submit to you without restriction. Love her no matter the faults and weaknesses she manifests.

2. FATHER

1 Tim 5:8

8 But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

KJV

Prov 22:6

6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

KJV

Prov 23:13-14

13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. 14 Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

NIV

Prov 22:15

15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

NIV

The man is not only the husband to the wife but father to the children of the marriage. This is a great responsibility for the man.

- It is the responsibility of the man to provide for the wife and children – housing, good food, clothing, good education and good moral instruction.
- It is the responsibility of the father to instruct the children in the ways of the LORD his God.
- It is the responsibility of the father to teach his children about life and how to live life to the fullest.
- It is the responsibility of the father to teach his children about relationships, good character, good habits, how to exercise control over one's thoughts and emotions and please God.
- The family is the first school of relationships every human has, so the father must do whatever is necessary to make sure that the children learn the right values.

- Training of children is not to be left for the mothers only. The mothers cannot play the role of the fathers. A child needs both parent's input into his life to develop well and become whom God wants him to be in life.
- Making of money to provide for the family needs must not take the place of being with your children and imparting them with the right knowledge and discipline.
- The father should endeavour to be close to his children. Be your children's friend and confidant. Do not be far from them but close to them. Give them listening ears and patiently answer their questions. Give them responsibilities and watch them develop in handling responsibilities.

3. MAN OF GOD

The man is not only a husband and a father but a man of God. Every man must have a good and close relationship with the Lord our Saviour. This relationship must result in the man being a role model for his family. The husband and father must see himself as the man of God for his family. God always appoints someone to the position of responsibility for the purpose of accountability. The husband/father is God's man in the family. He is to hear from Him, commune with Him about his family their needs, and represent God to His family. His role is divided into three parts:

a. Priest

- 1.** The job of the priest is to stand in the gap between his family, the world around him and God pleading for mercy and the grace of God to always abound, forgiving their sins and meeting their needs.
 - He is the intercessor for his family.
 - Therefore, he must be more prayerful than the wife no matter how busy he may be with his career and business. Remember the priests of the Lord spent more time with God than any other person in Israel.
 - The man must lead his family in prayer daily as they pray together as one family.
- 2.** The second responsibility of the priest is to teach the people of God the law. In the same way, the husband/father has the responsibility to teach his family and all living in his house the word of God.
 - Time must be created to daily and systematically teach the word of God to his family.
 - Have time for question and answer so the family will gain deeper understanding. Paul taught the Corinthian Christian women to ask their husbands questions about the things they don't understand about the word of God. It therefore means the man of God should give room for questions and answers from time to time so his family can be well instructed.

1 Cor 14:34-35

34 women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. 35 If they want to inquire

about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

NIV

- This calls for more time to be spent on studying the Bible, Christian books and listening to teachings by the man of the house so he can play his priestly role. You can't teach what you don't know and understand.

2 Tim 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

KJV

Josh 1:8

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

KJV

- Don't be so busy that you don't have time to study the word of God. You can't be busier than Joshua who was the president and active commander in chief of the armed forces of Israel, chief judge, husband and father, and yet he was commanded to give time to daily study and meditation on the word of God.

b. Prophet

The Prophet stays in God's presence to hear the mind and will of God for his family.

Gen 2:15-17

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

NIV

Gen 3:8-12

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

NIV

Gen 3:17

17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you;

through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

NIV

- He trains himself to hear the voice of God.
- He is willing to follow the plan and will of God for his life and that of his family.
- He teaches his family to value and respect the words of God – To believe, practice and obey God promptly.
- He does not lean on his own understanding, but acknowledges the role of God in his life and family and teaches his family to accept same.
- He builds his marriage and family values on the words of God and not on the traditions of his people or the worldly accepted principles.

c. King

Eph 5:22-23

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as 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.

NIV

Eph 6:1-3

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"-which is the first commandment with a promise- 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

NIV

As king, he is the administrator of his family. The leadership responsibility is on him and he must be accountable to God.

- The success and failure of his marriage is on him.
- He will take the responsibility for the outcome of the children's lifestyle and not blame it on his wife.
- He is the decision maker in the home.
- He is the head of his house.
- He will have to bear more, tolerate more and overlook more offences than any other person in the family to make his marriage and family a success.
- He protects his family.
- He teaches his family to live like royalty and represent his name and family well.

CONCLUSION

The man is the husband to his wife, father to his children and man of God to his family playing the role of Priest, Prophet and King. These entire roles carry responsibilities that must be fulfilled. I urge you therefore to give yourself to God and doing your God giving responsibilities and your marriage and family will experience God's blessings and extraordinary success.

