

## **EPHESIANS 5:22-33**

### **MARRIAGE ROLES (PART 3 - THE HUSBAND'S HEADSHIP)**

*Five descriptions must mark the headship of every Christian husband.*

*His headship must be a...*

#### **I. Level headship**

- A. Compatible with all his personal duties as a Christian**
- B. Compatible with all his domestic duties in the home**

#### **II. Leading headship**

- A. The title is assumed**
- B. The practice is necessary**
  - 1. Set the pace in the home**
  - 2. Establish the priorities in the home**
  - 3. Teach the principles in the home**
- C. The competence is required**

#### **III. Literate headship**

- A. Knows the Bible**
- B. Knows his wife**
- C. Knows himself**

#### **IV. Liberating headship**

- A. Equips his wife with guidance**
- B. Enables his wife with resources**
- C. Entrusts his wife with responsibility**

#### **V. Loving headship**

### III. Literate headship

- Literate - educated; possessing knowledge
- Literate headship is competent headship because it possesses the knowledge necessary to get the job done
- Without godly wisdom/knowledge, no man can be a competent husband and leader of his home

#### On competence

- Al Mohler: "No leader can be effective without character, but character does not ensure that a leader is effective. There are many people with sterling character who are not leaders. A good leader stands out when character is matched by competence and the central virtue of *knowing what to do*... Leadership requires trust in something beyond who the leader is. True credibility rests in the ability of others to trust what the leader can *do*. Credibility is not a function of office or title."<sup>1</sup>(Emphasis added)

#### A. Knows the Bible

1. God (Eph. 1:1ff; Jer. 9:23-24)
2. The Gospel (Eph. 5:22ff)
3. All things theological (1Cor. 14:24-25)

#### B. Knows himself (Pro. 4:23; 20:5; 23:19)

#### C. Knows his wife/household (1Pet. 3:7)

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<sup>1</sup> Albert Mohler, *The Conviction to Lead: 25 Principles for leadership that Matters* (Grand Rapids, MI: Bethany House Publishers, 2012), 83.

## Obstacles to competent leadership:

### 1. Ignorance

- “If you would be head, remember the head is not only the seat of government, but of knowledge. If you will have the management of the ship, see that a fool is not placed at the helm. Shall the blind offer themselves as guides?”<sup>2</sup> — John Angell James

### 2. Fear (1Sam. 15:24)

- “Doth every big word of proud dust and ashes make thee afraid? Doth the voice of a man make thee tremble? and shall not the voice of God: If thou art of such a fearful and timorous spirit, how is it that thou fearest not to disobey the flat commands of Jesus Christ?... We cannot fear creatures sinfully, till we have forgotten God; did we remember what he is, and what he hath said, we should not be of such feeble spirits: Bring thy heart, then to this dilemma in times of danger; if I let into my heart the slavish fear of man, I must let out the reverential awe and fear of God; and dare I cast off the fear of the Almighty for the frowns of a man?”<sup>3</sup> — John Flavel

### 3. Apathy

### 4. Indolence

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<sup>2</sup> John Angell James, *A Help to Domestic Happiness* (Grand Rapids, MI: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2020), 58.

<sup>3</sup> John Flavel, *The Works of John Flavel, Volume V* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1968), 452.