

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

MARRIAGE ROLES (PART 4 - 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

“As the wife should be willing to help the husband, in matters of business, *he* should be willing to share with her the burden of domestic anxieties and fatigue. Some go too far, and utterly degrade the female head of the family, by treating her as if her honesty or ability could not be trusted in the management of the domestic economy. They keep the money, and dole it out as if they were parting with their life’s blood, grudging every shilling they would from a suspected servant: they take charge of every thing, give out every thing, interfere in every thing. This is to despoil a woman of her authority, to thrust her from her proper place, to insult and degrade her before her children and servants. Some, on the other hand go to the opposite extreme, and take no share in any thing.”¹

– John Angell James, *A Help to Domestic Happiness*

Three features of liberating headship:

A. Equips his wife with guidance, 1Cor. 14:35

What does my wife need to know in order to fulfill her role well?

B. Enables his wife with resources, Titus 2:5

What does my wife need to possess in order to fulfill her role well?

C. Entrusts his wife with responsibility

What does my wife need to undertake in order to fulfill her role well?

Obstacles to liberating leadership:

1. Ignorance
2. Pride
3. Self-will

¹ John Angell James, *A Help to Domestic Happiness* (Grand Rapids, MI: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2020), 26-27.