

What's a Husband to Do?

There is a great deal of confusion in today's culture about marriage and family. We argue and debate over who is in charge. What is the role and responsibility of husbands, wives, parents, and children? When it comes to answering these questions, there are four sources of wisdom where we can turn for advice:

- Culture (TV, movies, magazines, internet, blogs)
- Capabilities (our skills, gifts, abilities)
- Christians (friends, books, radio programs, conferences, pastors)
- Commandments (Scripture)

The pattern for roles and responsibilities in the church, marriage, and family is rooted in the Trinity. The Trinity modeled the concept and pattern of a functional subordination.

	Equality	Function	Order
Trinity	The Father, Son, and the Spirit are equal as persons John 6:27; 10:30 Acts 5:3-4	The Father, Son, and the Spirit have separate functions John 16:7-15 Colossians 1:15-18 Ephesians 1:3-14 1 John 2:1-2	The Father has leadership and the Son and the Spirit submit John 17:1-5 1 Corinthians 11:3 Philippians 2:5-11 John 14:26
Church	All members are to be considered without distinction in the Body Galatians 3:28	All members have been given spiritual gifts to serve the Body Romans 12:6-8 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Ephesians 4:7-11 1 Peter 4:10-11	Christ has the authority and leadership is delegated to pastors & elders Hebrews 13:7 1 Peter 5:1-4 1 Timothy 5:17
Marriage	Husbands and wives are viewed as co-heirs of the grace of God 1 Peter 3:7 Galatians 3:28	Husbands and wives have unique functions in the family Genesis 1-3	The husband is given the role as the leader to which the wife is commanded to submit and respect Ephesians 5:22-33 Colossians 3:18-19 1 Peter 3:1-7 Proverbs 31
Family	All members stand in the place of equal responsibility before God Ezekiel 18:1-32 (20, 30)	Different members have different roles & responsibilities Colossians 3:18-21 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 11	Parents have the authority in the home and the children are to obey Ephesians 6:1-3 Colossians 3:20 Proverbs

The Role of the Husband: Head

“By God’s design, the husband is the head of the wife and lovingly exercises his delegated authority.”

- The head of the wife is the husband because of God’s decision (1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9)
 - All are under authority and submit to the one above them
 - Priority of creation
 - Purpose of creation
- The husband is to be the active leader who lovingly manages and provides
 - “Manage” means to stand before and care for the family (1 Timothy 3:2, 4-5)
 - “Provide” means to plan before and meet the family’s needs (1 Timothy 5:8)
- The husband leads not by “lording it over” or “exercising authority” over his wife but “with understanding” and “honor” (1 Peter 3:7).
- The husband submits to God’s primary call to be his wife’s head and devotes himself to her above children, friends, recreation, ministry, or work (Ephesians 5:23).
- The husband is the spiritual leader who mentors his wife to become blameless, holy, and glorious (Ephesians 5:25-27).

The Responsibility of the Husband: Love

“As head of the wife, the husband chooses to love his wife unconditionally and sacrificially as Christ loved the church.”

- God commands husbands to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25).
- Love your wife as Christ “loved the church” and give yourself sacrificially (Ephesians 5:25).
- Love your wife and purposefully “nourish and cherish” her (Ephesians 5:28-29).
- Love your wife and do not become “harsh” toward her (Colossians 3:19).
- Love your wife fervently and never allow your love to grow cold.

Principles to Practice

1. Rejoice regularly that God called you to be the head of your wife—and as you lead, “do it heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23)
2. Overcome any feelings of inadequacy, fear, and anxiety about your role through biblical solutions.
3. Enlist several respected married men to meet with you regularly for support and accountability.
4. Take responsibility for your spiritual life and the spiritual lives of your wife and family.
5. Demonstrate your love so that your wife feels loved.