

A Husband in Covenant

Introduction – Being a husband is the role of a man who is united to a woman in a covenant. His job description is not his to write. It has been mandated by his Head, who is also his standard, his example, and his only source of grace for the job to be done well.

A Head and A Picture (Eph 5:23) – Remember your grammar. This is a statement of fact, not an imperative to *be* anything. The husband finds himself in a place of inescapable headship over his wife. He cannot successfully refuse to lead. He is also inescapably a picture of Christ. He can never stop talking about Christ and the church. He is always speaking the truth or lies, but he is always speaking. This is the job – and it is not for the weak of heart. No one is sufficient for such things, except in Christ.

Prerequisites for Husbands – This is also a good time to highlight the fact that this message is not only for husbands, but for prospective husbands, prospective wives, and wise, prospective fathers-in-law. What are the prerequisites for a godly husband?

He Should Love the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 14:26) – A man must find his first love always upon his Lord and all other loves should pale in comparison. A man who loves his wife second will love her more than a man who makes her an idol.

He Should Be a Man and Not a Boy (Neh 4:14, Num 1:2-3) – War and marriage both take more than just a particular height. Untrained masculinity is impulsive and so, for both, we must learn strict self-discipline. And we must learn as boys, from the men.

He Should Understand His Calling – “*Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man*”(1 Cor 11:9). A godly wife will be focused upon being a helper to her husband in his dominion-taking. This means he must know and acknowledge the vocation that God has given him. It also means that he is prepared to provide in all the ways God requires.

The Husband as Provider (Ex 21:10) – This law, regulating polygamy teaches us the bare essentials required by a husband.

Food and Clothing – Not only is she to be provided with these things for herself. She is to be provided with the materials she will need to accomplish your vision for your home. A man who does not provide for his family is worse than an unbeliever (1 Tim 5:8). Connected to this, if there are children, he is responsible for their education (Deut 6, Eph 6:4). Regardless of the method used for education, it takes an enormous amount of work to do it without abdication. And the husband is responsible.

Sexual Attentiveness (1 Cor 7:3-5) – A husband is not only to be sexually interested, but attentive to her needs. That is her protection against immorality. He must understand how her sexual interests are never segregated from the rest of her world.

The Loyal Husband – The sacrifice of a godly husband is not only his act of duty; it must be his pleasure (Eph 5:28-32). Christ did not love the church with resentment, but with delight. How is this revealed in the life of a husband?

Monogamous – Like Christ, the husband is focused on one wife, one bride and for the long-haul. (Prov 5:15-19). Lust and adultery are, of course, excluded. But so is the sin of comparison, for this only reveals that his mind is on other women. Finally, it is certain the love of a husband to his wife should be above his love to all other human relations. She is his bride, she is his sister, she is his companion. No one else should come close.

Tender Nourishment (Eph 5:25-27) – A godly husband is a student of two things – Christ, and his wife. He must know her needs and how she best receives encouragement, instruction, admonition, and praise. He must know how Christ gave patiently, persistently, sacrificially, and with great delight, and he must imitate his Master. His actions will effectively make her more and more beautiful over the years. In addition, he must have a rock-bottom faith that the Word of God can and must be brought to bear on everything in life (2 Tim 2:15-17).

Royal Honor (1 Pet 3:7) “*An excellent wife is the crown of her husband*” (Prov 12:4a). There should be well developed etiquette and manners that reflect this truth all the time in his home, and out of his home. His children should also learn from his example and teaching that *this woman particularly* deserves special honor and respect.

At the Center – Covenant Headship/Covenant Love

Hard Words – The husband stands before God on behalf of his family. He must take responsibility for everything in the relationship, just as Christ took responsibility for all the sins of the church. You must learn to confess your sins as your sins, not blaming anyone or anything else. You must also learn to confess your wife’s sins as yours. All the problems in your marriage are your responsibility. They are there because of you – not her.

Sweet Promises – “*He who loves his wife loves himself*”. This promise only makes sense in the context of covenant. You are one flesh. Just try to out-love her, just try...

Dave Hatcher – April 16, 2000