

Fathers and Husbands

“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him,” (Genesis 2:18).

The Bible portrays women as a great blessing to man. God felt man should not be alone. Therefore, He made the woman very different from man, but enough like him that the two would be compatible. Woman was made from man on the same level of life as man (Gen. 2:21-24).

Eve was not created from Adam’s feet that he might trample over her, but from his side that the two might walk side by side through life. When a husband criticizes his wife, he is belittling himself, for Adam said of Eve, she is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. The marriage bond between a man and a woman is to be strong and continue to grow stronger through time.

God did design, however, one to be the head of the family and the other to be in subjection. Those who attempt to erase the role factor that exists between man and woman are acting contrary to the teaching of the Bible (Eph. 5:22-24).

Man is to rule over his wife in love such as Jesus has for his church. Jesus gave his life for the church. Therefore, man should be willing to give of himself to his wife. In this way, she will find her relationship with her husband pleasant and fulfilling (Eph. 5:25, 28-29).

The first responsibility in leadership for fathers and husbands is in spiritual matters. He should show himself an example in gospel obedience. Therefore he should, “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecl. 12:13). Any man who loves his wife and children will ultimately be concerned about their eternal welfare. A father and husband will not only encourage his family to live as Christians but will be one himself and work to assist them in their service to God.

Secondly, the husband has been placed in the position of bread winner. He is to provide the materials needed for his family. Notice Paul's writing, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1st Tim. 5:8). Pursuit of an honorable occupation is essential for the able bodied. It is God's plan that man should provide for himself and his family.

The stations of leadership for the man, subjection for the woman have been prescribed by God, each complimenting and conforming to the other in a special relationship so that husband and wife might be sharers together of life and assist each other on their way to heaven.