

# The Biblical View of Headship - Part 4b - Headship in Marriage: Attributes and Roles of the Husband

## Memory verse

1 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV

*But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

“Head” in this context, means; the leader, the chief, the one in charge, or the top person. Headship has everything to do with authority or rank and its corresponding role. It doesn’t have anything to do with value or worth or essence or being. It’s like the different ranks in the army—the person with the lower rank takes orders from the person with the higher rank, however they all work together towards the same goal or purpose, all being *sub* to the *mission*.

Why is headship important?

*Where there is recognition of, and submission to, these roles, there is order, community, love, relationship, and harmony. We see this in the way Jesus related to the Father.*

## Revision—Important principles regarding the role of the husband

Last time we learned about what it means for the husband to love his wife.

1. Marriage is an illustration of Christ’s special relationship to His bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:25-33). This is why marriage is so important to God. Marriage is God’s way of communicating to an unbelieving world the kind of close, abiding, and intimate relationship that He longs to have with every person He created. God’s plan is that the woman demonstrates the kind of submission that every believer ought to have toward Christ, and the husband demonstrates the kind of loving and sacrificial care that God has for those who choose to come back into relationship with Him.
2. The husband’s love is a sacrificial love (Ephesians 5:25). If he is to honour Christ, the Husband must love his wife sacrificially, meaning that he is willing to give everything up for her, following the example of Christ who willingly gave up everything for His bride, the Church.
3. The husband’s love is an “*agape*”, unconditional, self-denying love (Ephesians 5:25). This can be summarised as “Husbands, continually decide to practice self-denial for the sake of your wives” (David Guzik).
4. There is a high cost to *agape* love. When I choose with my mind to love my wife from my heart (the decision not being dependant on whether the other person responds to my love or not), then I will make myself vulnerable to getting hurt. Like we grieve the Holy Spirit when we sin, so we are grieved when other people choose to sin against us, rejecting our love.
5. The Husband as the servant leader—Godly headship (authority) vs worldly headship. The godly husband will be a servant leader, leading with humility and meekness. The ungodly husband will be arrogant, abusing his position so he can benefit himself.
6. Two common errors concerning the husband’s headship role are that the husband doesn’t lead at all, or he becomes a dictator. Either extreme will lead to a dysfunctional family.

## **Outline—The role of the husband, based on Ephesians 5:25-33**

Today we will continue to learn about what it means for the husband to love his wife. We will cover the main points as listed:

1. The difference between leadership and headship (authority or command)—Ephesians 5:23
2. The Husband's role as the spiritual leader—Ephesians 5:26-27
3. The husband is to meet their wife's everyday needs—Ephesians 5:28-32
4. The importance of leaving and cleaving—Ephesians 5:31

Ephesians 5:22-33 NKJV

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

### **1. The difference between leadership and headship (authority or command)**

Ephesians 5:23 NKJV

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church.

#### **Command vs leadership**

Most people think that if they are in a position of *headship, authority or command*, then they are a leader, leading those under them. However, being a leader and having a position of headship [authority or command] are two very different things. A person who is in a position of headship (authority or command), but is not a good leader, is simply commanding people to do what he wants them to do, and they comply because they have to, and/or because it the morally right thing to do—they are submitting as unto the Lord. We see this all the time in all areas of life—in schools, politics, the military, and any other organisation, including the church and the family.

On the other hand, a person may be a good leader, though not be in any position of authority. It's important to realise that there are certain skills and attributes that a person must have for them to be a good leader. Consider the following two quotes from the RAN (Royal Australian Navy) website regarding ***command [headship] vs leadership***.

The essence of command [headship] is legal authority to order subordinates to pursue assigned tasks. Command requires organisational structure and obedience from subordinates. **Command [headship] is a war-fighting enabler,** which must be unambiguous, flexible and efficient.

Command is a term of cultural significance in the Navy. There is unquestionable dignity, honour and responsibility attached to the command of Australian officers and sailors. **Yet, a commander may display no leadership behaviour** [This is directly relatable to the role of the Husband].

In theory, **a commander may ignore leadership principles and rely on command power to achieve military objectives.** In reality this is foolish, because leadership inspires commitment and perseverance in the ethical accomplishment of missions.

Leadership, defined as ‘the process of influencing others in order to gain their willing consent in the ethical pursuit of missions, includes, humility, integrity and moral courage. Leaders have an ethical claim to the authority of command only by unflagging integrity. **People who are not leaders will, on occasion, be appointed to positions of command. The consequences are usually regrettable.**” ([navy.gov.au](http://navy.gov.au))

“Leadership is most often associated with the ability to inspire, motivate, and stimulate others to achieve goals. Communication, empowerment and team building are core principles of leadership.” (J.G. Jones, Commander, RAN)

Although this is a worldly source, it is very practical. It works because this is how God designed it to work. The attributes that God requires in elders and deacons are the very same that corporations and the military are looking for; *they are looking for good leaders to fill their command positions.* The wife should also be looking for a good or godly leader to fill the command or headship position over her—she should be looking for a husband who is a good leader. What is a good leader. According to the RAN, the *attributes, skills, and goals* of a good leader are:

- **Attributes:** humility, integrity, and moral courage (stand up for what is right—Phil 4:8)
- **Skills/abilities:** good communication; able to empower, inspire, stimulate, and motivate others to achieve goals; and team building
- **Goals:**
  - to inspire, motivate, and stimulate others to achieve goals
  - influence others in order to gain their willing consent in the ethical pursuit of missions
  - inspire commitment and perseverance in the ethical accomplishment of missions

If this sounds familiar, it’s because it is. Think of Jesus. Jesus was in a position of headship, but He was also the ultimate leader—people were drawn to Him, they wanted to follow Him. The above describe (though not exhaustively) what kind of leader Jesus was like (His attributes), His leadership skills and abilities, and the goals of His leadership. The main difference is that the “missions” Jesus pursued weren’t against flesh and blood enemies (like in the RAN), but against the spiritual powers of darkness—He fought for the hearts and souls of mankind.

The husband is also in a war in two senses. Firstly, there is the personal war against the powers of darkness for the hearts and souls of his own family, protecting them from the negative influence of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Good leadership will go a long way to lead them towards the truth, preventing them from being lead astray by satan, who is also a skilled leader in many respects: Though satan is definitely not humble, he is very good at communicating, empowering, inspiring, stimulating, and motivating people to do his will and go his way. The husband has strong competition: If he won't lead the family, then someone else will, usually satan through his proxies the world and the flesh.

Secondly, the husband is the commander of a very small but extremely powerful spiritual commando unit, also called a family. As we learned last week, a godly marriage and family has a powerful effect on the world, with a family who works well together for the kingdom of God having an impact far greater than the sum of that of the individuals.

### **More on what it means to be a good leader**

God's leadership attributes for deacons and elders laid out in Paul's pastoral epistles (letters) to Timothy and Titus have universal application. A good leader in the church will also be a good leader in the world and especially in marriage.

Here is a quote from Gene Getz from his book "Measure of a Man" which highlights the fact that any good leader leads according to biblical principles.

I had a fascinating experience one day when I was conducting a "Measure of a Man Seminar" in Chicago. I was talking about the profile of maturity that Paul outlined in his letters to Timothy and Titus. ...

At that moment, I knew I was relating to men who were not only new believers in Jesus Christ, but men who knew very little about the Bible. However, they were not new to the field of management.

During our conversation they made an observation I'll never forget. "You know," they said, "this is the first time we've heard this list of qualifications from the Bible. But we've learned from experience in hiring people for middle management positions that these are the kind of employees we're looking for."

In essence, they went on to say they wanted employees who have a good reputation. If men were cheating on their wives or sleeping around, chances were they would also cheat on the company. They didn't want men who had all kinds of domestic problems. If they couldn't handle their own families, how in the world were they going to handle other employees?

To my surprise, these two men went on to outline more characteristics that correlated with Paul's maturity profile. Because of this seminar experience, they were learning that what they had gained from experience closely paralleled a biblical profile.

Needless to say, I was intrigued and fascinated. We had been looking at qualities of maturity inspired by the Holy Spirit and outlined by Paul nearly 2,000 years ago.

And here were two men who were new Christians, men who knew little about the Bible—but they had learned from experience that this biblical profile is pragmatic and essential in selecting mature people who will serve in responsible positions.

In summary, just because a man gets married and now has the very responsible position of being the head of the wife and family, it doesn't automatically make him a good leader—the qualities of leadership must be learned and developed. Therefore, a lady must be looking for a spiritually mature man according the attributes or character traits listed in Paul's letters to Titus and Timothy—only this kind of man will be a good leader. Men, if you want to attract a godly lady, then you start working on being a godly man, a man who will be of good and godly character and be well equipped to lead his family.

## **2. The husband's role as the spiritual leader**

Ephesians 5:26-27 NLJV

That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

The most important aspect of Jesus's headship over the church is His spiritual responsibility. Jesus made sure that He met the spiritual needs of His disciples, who would become the church. We see this in verse 27, "that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word [the Bible]". Jesus continues this work even today through the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, the church, and individual families.

The most important role that we have been given as husbands as we exercise our headship (authority) over our wives is to be their spiritual leader—the priest or pastor of the home. *This is our highest calling, the greatest evidence of our love for our wives, our most important role or duty. To put it simply, our spiritual leadership, or lack of it, is what will directly affect our families the most;* it's what will have the greatest consequence, either good or bad, as our families live in a wicked world.

Consider the decisions Lot made and how they affected his family. They ended up being materially prosperous, but in a terrible place spiritually. Sodom is a picture of worldliness. Lot moved towards Sodom, then lived in Sodom, and finally ended up in a position of leadership in Sodom—see Genesis 13:12, 14:12, 19:1. Lot's is a story of increasing material wealth, but declining spiritual values. As we know, Lot's decisions ended up destroying his family—do you think sacrificing godliness for material gain was worth it in the end?

How does this work in practice? **A christian husband must be the priest or pastor of his home. His household is his church. He must understand that it's his responsibility to make the regular study of the word of God with his wife and children his highest priority.** Everything else—work, sport, entertainment, leisure time etc must be a distant second. Why? ...that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word... Consider what Jesus said to and prayed for the disciples.

John 15:3 NKJV

You are already clean (pure, spotless) because of the word which I have spoken to you.

John 17:17 NKJV

Sanctify (set apart, purify, make holy) them by Your truth. Your word [the Bible] is truth.

The effect of reading and studying the word of God is to sanctify (set apart or make holy) and cleanse and purify us. Just as Jesus demonstrated His love for the disciples when He cleansed and sanctified His disciples by the words of God that He spoke to them, **so should husbands also demonstrate their love for their wives and children by leading them in bible study and prayer.**

Of course, this also means that we need to be a good example in the other areas of our lives so that we have a good testimony. *If we don't have a good testimony or reputation with our family members concerning practical things, e.g. hard working, honest, faithful, reliable, etc, then we can't expect them to listen to us when it comes to spiritual things.*

Remember, we can't lead others where we haven't been, so this obviously means that we must lead by example. Husbands need to be reading the bible for themselves, be committed to prayer and fellowship, and growing their our love for the Lord—only then will we give our families a good example to follow. We must be able to say along with Paul:

1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

### **How does a husband sanctify his wife and raise godly children?**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 AMP

Every [word of] Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action), <sup>17</sup> So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The bible is the instruction book for how to be a godly husband, a godly wife, a godly mother or father, a godly son or daughter etc. It has advice on just about every conceivable scenario. Reading through the Scriptures, we see good and bad examples of marriage and parenting, as well as much explicit and specific instructions found in proverbs and the epistles. It doesn't matter what the topic, you'll find it in the bible. Whether it be dressing modesty, boyfriend and girlfriend relationships, addictions, worldliness, sexuality, it's all there, with most of it in story form—making it easy to apply.

As an example, if you want to educate your children on what it means to be sexually pure, and the consequences of not being sexually pure, just read the life stories of David and Solomon in the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles—there's no better example of what happens when a person doesn't exercise self-control of their physical appetites.

In our family, we have found that a systematic reading and study of the Scriptures, slowly, daily, reading through whole books of the Bible and explaining each part with stories, explanations, or acting them out, has equipped us all to be ready for every good work. From when our children were a young age (5 years old) we stopped reading Bible stories from the illustrated children's bibles, and instead started reading through books of the Bible like Genesis, Romans and Revelation—the explanations being simplified to match the age and understanding of our children. The acting out of the stories and making up stories to explain concepts was a blast. We used the kid's toys to be characters and we still have fond memories of those times when we cracked up laughing, with the children wanting to hear it over and over again. Incorporating humour and using stories when explaining concepts children will help them to better remember what you are trying to teach them. Also important is the teaching of memory verses from a young age.

As our children got older we started to include Bible commentaries. A simple Bible commentary, good for children aged around 10 and above, is Jon Courson's Application Commentary. A more detailed, but still easy to read, Bible commentary for children aged around 13 and above is David Guzik's Bible commentary, "The Enduring Word". Currently, in our family, with our children being 13 and 15, we read a chapter in two different Bible translations, NKJV and NLT, and then read through David Guzik's commentary, taking turns to read a paragraph at a time. Almost every day there is something in the passage that is relevant to our daily lives that we will stop to discuss.

If you can teach the book of Romans to your 5 year old, you can teach it to anyone. I strongly encourage both husbands and wives to take the challenge—the old adage is true—you don't know something until you can teach it. The more simple or young your audience, then the more skill and greater the depth of understanding is required to break it down to their level. It's much easier to effectively teach adults than children.

A good place for husbands and future husbands to learn to teach their children is by teaching Sunday School, as the lessons are usually already prepared for you. One of the characteristics of a family with well equipped godly children is that their daily devotions will be like an expository (verse by verse) Sunday School lesson. Of course, this can only happen if the husband and wife are well versed in the Scriptures themselves. *The husband needs to be the one who initiates and guides the spiritual activities in the home—this is a vital part of his role.*

### **3. The husband is to meet their wife's everyday needs**

Ephesians 5:28-32 NKJV

So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." [Genesis 2:24] <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

v 28 **So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies:** The idea here is that just as the husband naturally meets his own needs—like when he is hungry, thirsty, cold, sad, injured, or lacking something—so he will have the same (or greater) level of concern and consideration for meeting those same needs of his wife. The main point is that God has united the husband and wife to become one body or flesh (see v 31), and so what affects the wife necessarily affects the husband.

***The husband is responsible to make sure that all his wife's physical, emotional, material, and spiritual needs are met, because they are to be regarded as his own needs.***

A man must love his wife as he would his body, as a part of himself. As Eve was a part of Adam, taken out of his side, so the wife is to the man because she is a part of him. The reality of this union must dominate the husband's thinking and actions in marriage. (David Guzik)

"The Apostle puts it in this form in order that a husband may see that he cannot detach himself from his wife. You cannot detach yourself from your body, so you cannot detach yourself from your wife. She is a part of you, says the Apostle, so remember that always." (Lloyd-Jones)

"The husband must realize that his wife is a part of himself. He will not feel this instinctively; he has to be taught it; and the Bible in all its parts teaches it. In other words, the husband must understand that he and his wife are not two: they are one." (Lloyd-Jones)

v 28 **He who loves his wife loves himself:** If my wife is happy, then I'm happy. If my wife is unhappy, then my life is miserable. If I love my wife as God desires me to, then not only will she benefit, but so will I. If I choose not to love my wife as God commands me to, then not only will my wife suffer, but so will I. Every choice I make as a husband concerning my wife will either benefit me or hurt me.

"We all know what it is like to neglect something—like a noise or a maintenance issue on an automobile—and it comes back to hurt us. Husbands, it is *even more true* regarding your wife, because *she is part of you*. Only a fool neglects his own broken arm or infected leg; yet there are many foolish husbands who hurt or neglect their wives and they do and will suffer from it." (David Guzik)

"On the practical level, therefore, the whole of the husband's thinking must include his wife also. He must never think of himself in isolation or detachment. The moment he does so he has broken the most fundamental principle of marriage. In a sense, the moment a man thinks of himself in isolation he has broken the marriage. And he has no right to do that! There is a sense in which he cannot do it, because the wife is a part of himself. But if it happens he is certain to inflict grievous damage on his wife; and it is damage in which he himself will be involved because she is a part of him." (Lloyd-Jones)

### **How does a husband know what is best for his wife?**

For a husband to love his wife as a servant leader he must first know what her needs are at the time, which means that he must be constantly communicating with his wife. She might need a hug, some time alone away from the children, a listening ear, some money to buy something for herself, some encouragement from the Bible, or prayer etc. The Bible says that one of the husband's roles is to actively seek to know and understand his wife—how she is feeling and what her needs are. If he doesn't, then he is disobeying God, and his prayers will be hindered (thwarted).



1 Peter 3:7 NLT

In the same way, you husbands must give honour to your wives. **Treat your wife with understanding [knowledge, discernment, seeking to know, be acquainted with, investigation] as you live together.** She may be [physically] weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner [equal in worth] in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

v 7 **Treat your wife with understanding:** The word **understanding** means to have knowledge of something as a result of a careful investigation. The husband is to “study” or “investigate” his wife, with the purpose of finding out how he can best serve her and meet her needs. Once the husband discovers what her needs are, then he acts on that knowledge—***treat your wife according to your knowledge of her.***

v 7 **Equal partner** [joint heirs—NKJV]: Simply put, even though the husband has the role of being the leader, the wife is equal to the husband in worth. “This “reminds husbands that even though they have been given great authority within marriage, their wives are still equal to them in spiritual privilege and eternal importance: they are ‘joint heirs.’” (Grudem)

The husband must remember that his role as head of his wife is only temporary, it is only for this life; in heaven all believers will be married to Christ. This means that after believers receive their glorified bodies, all earthly spouses will only be brothers and sisters in God's kingdom—thus the description of the wife as an “equal partner” or “joint heir”.

v 7 **Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered [thwarted]:** There are two different kinds of sins. Some are sins of commission, things that we choose to do that are wrong. Others are sins of omission, when we don't do what we ought to have done. When the husband doesn't bother to “investigate” his wife, making the time to communicate sensitively with her to find out how she is feeling and what she needs, or he does but then doesn't act on that knowledge, then he has failed in his role as the head of his wife—he has not been a servant leader. He sins either by doing something that hurts her, or by not doing something that he should have done to help her.

Sin separates us from God, resulting in us not being able pray effectively—the warning here is that the husband's prayer life will be weak, ineffective, hindered, or thwarted. The only remedy for this break in fellowship between the husband and God (and his wife) is for the husband to repent of his sin of not being the husband that he is called to be, and ask God's to give him the desire and power to obey God's command to love his wife as Christ loved the church—by choosing to live or dwell with her with understanding.

“Peter *assumed* that the fear of hindered prayer would motivate Christian husbands to love and care for their wives as they should. Many Christian men have such a low regard for prayer that this warning may not adequately motivate them.” (David Guzik)

“Indeed, to true believers prayer is so invaluable that the danger of hindering it is used by Peter as a motive why, in their marriage relationships, and household concerns, they should behave themselves with great wisdom. He bids the husband ‘dwell’ with his wife ‘according to knowledge,’ and render loving honour to her, lest their united prayers should be hindered. Anything which hinders prayer must be wrong. If any management of the family, or want of management, is injuring our power in prayer, there is an urgent demand for an alteration.” (Spurgeon)

What does the Bible say about the husband who neglects his wife's or family's physical needs?

1 Timothy 5:8 NKJV

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

The idea here is that even unbelievers look after their own families, and this is mostly true—most men have a natural instinct to provide for and protect their families. Therefore, if a Christian man doesn't even do, or at least try to do, this most basic service for their wife and family, then he is worse than an unbeliever.

#### **4. The importance of leaving and cleaving**

Ephesians 5:31 NKJV (Paul quoting Genesis 2:24)

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Jesus also quoted Genesis 2:24, in the context of marriage and divorce. He explained it further in Matthew 19:6, “*So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.*” (NKJV)

The point here is that when a man and woman marry, God does something incredible and amazing—in a very real and special way, just like Christ and the Church are one, so are the husband and wife—God unites them to become one flesh or body.

What does this look like practically? Both the husband and wife must leave behind their former associations, including parents, meaning that all decisions are made with the welfare of the spouse and family being first and foremost, and not seeking to please others or allowing their decisions to be swayed by what others think or want them to do.

Some might object saying, “But the Bible says for children to obey their parents” (see Ephesians 6:1 and Colossians 3:20). That's true, but the husband and wife are no longer children. They are grownup adults. The fourth commandment (see Exodus 20:12) is for sons and daughters to honour the parents, which means to treat them with respect. A married man and woman can and should still treat their parents with respect, while still making independent decisions regarding their marriage (getting advice is wise, but the advice is not always correct—sometimes the parents want what is best for themselves, not the marriage). The husband and wife need to make their own choices together.

#### **Conclusion and summary**

Today we covered:

1. The difference between leadership and headship (authority or command)—Ephesians 5:23. Command is the position of authority or headship. Leadership requires the following skills: good communication; able to empower, inspire, stimulate, and motivate others to achieve goals; and team building. Why is this important?

## Ephesians 6:4 NLT

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Command (authority) without leadership (loving care and concern), will lead the children to resent their father, and make it difficult for the wife to submit.

2. The Husband's role as the spiritual leader—Ephesians 5:26-27. God desires the husband to help his wife and children grow in their relationships with God by initiating and facilitating regular Bible study and other spiritual activities—every Christian husband is the pastor of his own family.
3. The husband is to meet their wife's everyday needs—Ephesians 5:28-32. At marriage, God joins the husband and wife to become one body. Therefore, everything the husband does or doesn't do for his wife also affects himself. By neglecting his wife, he is neglecting himself. By serving his wife, he benefits himself.
4. The importance of leaving and cleaving—Ephesians 5:31. The husband is the head or authority in the home and the husband and wife make decisions together, not being negatively influenced or swayed by what other people think is best for them.

Overall, there are three main reasons for a husband to love his wife:

1. Husbands are commanded to *agape* love their wives (see Ephesians 5:25)
2. Marriage is a pattern or type of Christ's relationship with the Church—any failure or dysfunction in the family dishonours God (see Ephesians 5:25-29)
3. Husbands must love their wives because they are one with her, just as Jesus is one with the church (see 5:28-32)