

The Pattern for Marriage

(The Husband's Role—Part 2)

Ephesians 5:23

Key Thought: A wise husband understands that his role is crucial in achieving oneness.

□ The husband's role includes three essential responsibilities:

1. The first area of responsibility is loving. (Eph. 5:25, 28)

- a) Put her at the center of your life (I Peter 3:7 “giving honor”= to esteem or highly regard). She is your top priority; your primary ministry; the most important person in your life.
- b) Discover and start meeting her basic needs (I Peter 3:7 “dwell with her in understanding”
 - 1) She needs (verbal) affirmation
 - 2) She needs affection
 - 3) She needs caring conversation
 - 4) She needs emotional security
 - 5) She needs financial security
 - 6) She needs family commitment
- c) Recognize and respect her basic differences
 - 1) Physical
 - 2) Emotional

2. The second area of responsibility is leading.

- “For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.” (Ephesians 5:23)
- “An elder...is one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence. For if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?” (I Timothy 3:4-5)
- “Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their houses well.” (I Timothy 3:12)

Biblical Definition: ‘rule’ (GK. Proistemi—lit. “to stand before”) to lead, attend to (indicating care and diligence), to preside over.

Note: God has assigned the husband to be His representative in the home. He is to exemplify Christ in his role as its head; he must use his God-given authority to be the loving leader of his family. While there may be many causes for the breakdown of the family, the husband must ultimately accept the responsibility because he is the head.

□ **Two basic problems with leaders of the home:**

1. Do a poor job (i.e. lack of training or knowledge)
2. Abdicate their role to wife
 - a) fearful of making decisions

- b) laziness
- c) consistently absent from home
- d) dominant/aggressive wife

Note: A problem from the beginning—“...her husband who was *with her*.” (Gen. 3:6). The silence of Adam created chaos in the first home.

□ **The results of a lack of male leadership in the home:**

- 1. Children disrespectful and disobedient
- 2. Wives anxious and frustrated
- 3. Finances tangled and chaotic
- 4. Daily schedules hectic
- 5. Family communication poor
- 6. Role confusion or reversal

How can I be a good leader in my home?

By becoming a man of steel and a man of velvet.

ARE YOU A MAN OF STEEL OR
A MAN OF VELVET? (God wants you to be both!)

Self-Test			
MAN OF STEEL		MAN OF VELVET	
	T/F	T/F	
1. Are you committed to providing, protecting and pointing the way for your family?			1. Are you a man that cares ? Do you demonstrate compassion to others?
2. Are you a man of conviction ? Do you stand firm in your spiritual beliefs?			2. Are you a man of consideration ? Do you take time to find out the needs of others?
3. Are you a man of character ? Are you decisive even when your decision may be unpopular?			3. Are you cooperative ? Do you balance your authority with understanding and flexibility?
4. Are you a man of character ? Are you a man of integrity, a man that can be respected and trusted?			4. Are you a communicator ? Do you take time to listen or just talk?
5. Are you constructive ? Do you try to build others up?			5. Are you a man of gentlemanly conduct ? Do you respect and esteem others? (women, children)
6. Are you a man of confidence ? Are you confident of God's ability to provide, protect and guide you?			6. Are you able to cry when a family member is hurting?
7. Are you a controlled man? Are you obedient to God and under His control?			

Man of Steel_ (strong)

1. **Committed** Provide, protect, point
2. **Conviction** Stands firm in moral and spiritual convictions
Knows what he believes; models and
Teaches to his children
3. **Courage** Decisive
Willing to say, “That is not what we’re going to do.”
4. **Character** Man of integrity (‘integer’—whole)
5. **Constructive** Builds up and encourages wife and children.
6. **Confidence** Confident in God’s ability; confident of God’s presence and leadership; confident that he knows where he’s going and that God will get him there
7. **Controlled** Under God’s control; yielded and living sacrificially; not self-indulgent

Man of Velvet_ (sensitive)

1. **Care** Gentle touch; a sweet word; encouragement; time together
2. **Consideration** Takes time to consider family’s needs; takes time to listen and consider family’s feelings
3. **Cooperation** Recognizes that he is the final authority but willing to listen; can be flexible; does not dominate
4. **Communication** Listens and shares on a deeper level
5. **Conduct** A gentleman (i.e. rises when a woman enters a room, etc.)
6. **Cry** Compassionate and tender; can enter into the hurt of another