

# LEAD—GOD'S WAY!

Practical Lessons in Christian Living

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# SERIES CONTINUES (REVIEW)

- **Part 1: Love Like Jesus** [03-Mar-2024]
  - Discussed need for good, Biblical definitions and examples of manliness
  - **Eph 5:25-30** – Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church
    - **Agape love** — putting other people's needs above your own, sacrificing self, giving yourself up; showing generosity, kindly concern, devotedness toward your wife; esteem her; manifest generous concern for her; to be faithful towards her; to delight in your wife
    - **Purpose:** sanctify her, present her in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or blemish; cleanse her, nourish her, cherish her
    - Men need to imitate **Christ** when interacting with their wives
  - No matter how bad your wife may be at meeting your expectations, she comes closer to the **image** of the **Church** than you do in reflecting the **image** of **Christ**!
- **Part 2: Lead—God's Way** [07-Apr-2024]

# A DIFFICULT PASSAGE

- **I Cor 11: 2-5** Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.
- But I want you to understand that the **head** of every **man** is **Christ**, the **head** of a **wife** is her husband, and the **head** of Christ is **God**.
- Every man who **prays or prophesies** with his head **covered** dishonors his head, but every wife who **prays or prophesies** with her head **uncovered** dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.

# EXPLORING APPLICATION

- **Difficult scriptures** must be understood in light of simpler ones!
- There are **no contradictions** in God's inspired word!
- You can **not** just insert the world's definitions for "head" "leader" "master" "lord" "husband"
  - Neither the **victorian** definition and misperceptions
  - Nor the **Islamic** ownership of "property" or unquestioned rule

# THE 3 IN 1 vs. 2 BECOME 1

Continuing in the context of Corinthian letter...

- **1 Cor 11:11-12** — “Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is **not independent** of man **nor** man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.”
  - i.e., the husband and wife are **dependent** on each other
- **Eph 5:31** — Therefore a **man** shall **leave** **his** father and mother and hold fast (**cleave**) to his wife,
  - and the **two shall become one** flesh.
- *Not the typical military or business hierarchy!*

# TWO BECOMING ONE

- **One** flesh, no longer two!
- Not a **dictatorship**, but a **partnership**
- Consensus of opinion, a blending of perspectives, values, and strengths

**Synergy** — whole is greater than the sum of the parts

- Tend to be attracted to a personality our **opposite**
- NOT someone just like us (with the same blindspots)
- Takes effort for two half-brains to become one complete
- *We have to learn to **value the differences!***

# HOW DOES GOD LEAD?

Does **God** demand or remove your **free will**?

- Does **God** force us to obey?
- Does **God** threaten with **physical** or **verbal abuse**?

How does **God** influence us? ...

- **Romans 5:10** — For if while we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God by the **death of his Son**, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
- **Romans 2:4** — Or do you presume on the riches of his **kindness** and **forbearance** and **patience**, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"
- *Should be the same for the husband and wife!*

# COWBOY OR SHEPHERD?

What does the Bible use to describe the leadership in the church?

- **Cowboy or Shepherd?**
- **Cattle or Sheep?**
- Does **Christ** “**Drive the Herd**” or “**Lead the Flock**”?
- **Matt 18:12-14** — What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.
- **John 10:15** — just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and **I lay down my life for the sheep.**
- **1 John 3:16** — By this we know love, that he **laid down his life for us**, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.



# SHEPHERDS (OUT IN FRONT)

- **1 Peter 5:2-3** — **shepherd** the flock of God that is among you, exercising **oversight**, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **not domineering** over those in your charge, but being **examples** to the **flock**.”
- *Husbands need to **lead** by example and **care** for their flock’s needs:*
  - *Give them safe shelter*
  - *Protect them from predators*
  - *Lead them to clean water*
  - *Find good pastures for food*

Primarily  
**Spiritual**  
**Needs**, but also  
physical

# HEAD OF CHRIST IS GOD

Does **God** do anything that **Christ** is not in full agreement?

- **Matt 10:32-33** — So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven
- **John 10:30** — I and the Father are one.
- **John 14:10** — Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own **authority**, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.
- *Should be the same for the husband and wife!*

# TO SERVE, NOT “LORD”!

## How did **Christ** demonstrate leadership?

- **Matt 20:25-28** — “But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the **rulers** of the Gentiles **lord** it over them, and their **great ones** exercise **authority** over them.

It shall **not** be so among you!

- But whoever would be **great** among you must be your **servant** [diakonos], and whoever would be **first** among you must be your **slave** [doulos], even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- *We’ve got to recheck our job description!*

# HUMBLE SERVANT

- **Luke 22:26** — Rather, let the **greatest** among you become as the youngest, and the **leader** as one who **serves**.”
- **Matt 23:11-12** — The **greatest** among you shall be your **servant**. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

This is right before Jesus **blasts** the scribes and Pharisees with “the woes”, because of their poor “leadership”!

- **John 8:54** — Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’”

- *Should be the same for the husband and wife!*

# LEADERSHIP CHECK-UP

- Are you putting your spouse and children first (after Christ)?
- Are you **serv**ing Christ, your spouse, and your family?
- Do you seek **consensus, synergy** (or your own way)?
- Is your marriage a **partnership** where you share the **whole load**?
- Are you **valu**ing the differences?
- Are you being the “corner-stone” — do family members look to align themselves to you, to create a straight, strong home?
- Do you understand their **needs**, determining what they lack?
- Are you leading by **example**?
  - Does your spouse or kids come to you for the hard Bible/life questions?
  - Do they see you spending time in Bible study?
  - Do you draw the little ones to you?
  - Do you take responsibility for the spiritual health of your flock?

# INVITATION CHALLENGE

**If your family is not following, you need to ask why...**

- Are you outside of God's will and **authority**?
  - Not God's will, but mine? Or
  - Not my will, but Thine?
- Is **pride** or "**entitlement**" hindering your service?
- Are you **domineering**?
- Do you **demand, dictate, or drive** from behind?
- Do you get **mad** or **impatient**, or become **indifferent**?
- Are you **failing** to **sacrifice** daily for your family, are you expecting them to serve you?
- Are you **laying down your life** for them (your time, energy, priorities)?
- Could you be accused of treating your spouse "worse" than what the Bible commands masters in treating their bondservants or slaves?