

Session 17

Leadership in Marriage

1. Discipleship Scenario

2. Discussion Questions

a. *"Headship and Authority"*, (Reforming Marriage chap. 2)

Review Questions

- What is the author's point when he says, "no where is the husband commanded to be the head of his wife" This is because he already is the head of his wife, by the very nature of marriage."?
- What would the difference between what a husband is commanded to do and what a wife is commanded to in their marriage? What specific scriptures command these things?
- In speaking about understanding the biblical order of the home, Wilson makes it clear that trifling with these truths is completely unbiblical. Why should understanding these things move a man to "holy terror" (p.26)?
- Wilson writes, "Taking a covenant oath to become a husband involves assuming responsibility for that home. This means that men, whether through tyranny or abdication, are responsible for any problems in the home." What does he mean? Do you agree?
- How is a wife's weakness a husband weakness?

Application Questions

- What is the picture of Christ and the church that your marriage presents? How does your leadership as a husband portray Christ's love for the church? In what ways do you fall short?
- How are you currently taking responsibility for the problems that exist in your home?
- What practical ways have you sought to help your wife cultivate strength in her weaknesses? Where have you failed to do so?
- How does the principle of marrying wisely effect your thoughts about your children getting married? What ways would you counsel a son to think about marriage and choosing a wife?
- Do you agree that a man must be the "resident theologian" of his home? How well have you sought to do this? What must you do to exercise this responsibility in a biblical manner?
- Have you ever had to apologize to your family when you learned something you believe in the previously was false?

b. *"Duties of Husbands and Wives"*, (Reforming Marriage chap. 3)

The author provides a list of duties for the husband. In what ways would you like to grow in exercising your God-given mandate?

Lordship with great care

Nourish, cherish, sacrifice

Holy jealousy

Provision of basic needs

Sexual provision of wife's need

Contentment with your wife in all areas

Administrating her responsibilities and commitments

How has this chapter changed your understanding of the role of husband and wife? What changes would you like to make in your living illustration of Christ?

3. Scripture Memory Verse

Ephesians 5:22-30 ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.¹ ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body.

4. Exercise

Have your wife read through these chapters and then lead her through a discussion of ways that you can improve. Allow the focus to be on you. After you have thoroughly discussed your life, ask her what ways she believes she needs to change? Then share your observations on how you believe she can exercise her responsibilities more in keeping with the biblical pattern.

5. Assignment for Next Time

Read "*What's the Difference?*", by John Piper. Next meeting is
