

# The Husband As Spiritual Leader

Ephesians 5

## Introduction

This is a challenging area for men to fulfill. Today we will discuss what it means and find some practical ways to be the spiritual leader of our household.

## Bible Study

<sup>51</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; <sup>2</sup>and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

<sup>3</sup>But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; <sup>4</sup>and *there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.* <sup>5</sup>For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partakers with them; <sup>8</sup>for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), <sup>10</sup>trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; <sup>12</sup>for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. <sup>13</sup>But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. <sup>14</sup>For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." <sup>15</sup>Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of your time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

<sup>21</sup>and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. <sup>22</sup>Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup>But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, *love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; <sup>26</sup>that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.* <sup>28</sup>So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; <sup>29</sup>for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,

<sup>30</sup>because we are members of His body. <sup>31</sup>FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. <sup>32</sup>This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and *let the wife see to it* that she respect her husband.

<sup>61</sup>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup>THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. <sup>4</sup>And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

## A Husband's Activities – 5:3

### Immorality

4202 πορνεία porneia {por-ni'-ah}

1) illicit sexual intercourse

1a) adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.

1b) sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18

1c) sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman; Mk. 10:11,12

2) metaph. the worship of idols

2a) of the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols

How could this apply?

### Impurity

167 ακαθαρσία akatharsia {ak-ath-ar-see'-ah}

1) uncleanness

1a) physical

1b) in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living

1b1) of impure motives

### Greed

4124 πλεονεξία pleonexia {pleh-on-ex-ee'-ah}

AV - covetousness 8, greediness 1, covetous practice 1; 10

1) greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice

How could this harm your wife and children?

## A Husband's Words – 5:4

### Filthiness

151 αἰσχροτης aischrotes {ahee-skhot'-ace}

AV - filthiness 1; 1  
1) obscenity, filthiness

Silly Talk

3473 μορολογία morologia {mo-rol-og-ee'-ah}  
AV - foolish talking 1; 1  
1) foolish talking

Course Jestng

2160 εντραπelia eutrapelia {yoo-trap-el-ee'-ah}  
AV - jesting 1; 1  
1) pleasantry, humour, facetiousness  
2) in a bad sense  
2a) scurrility, ribaldry, low jesting

Giving of Thanks

2169 ευχαριστια eucharistia {yoo-khar-is-tee'-ah}  
AV - thanksgiving 9, giving of thanks 3, thanks 2, thankfulness 1; 15  
1) thankfulness  
2) the giving of thanks

## A Husband's Sanctification – 5:25-27

What does it mean for a husband to be the spiritual leader? (Break into groups of women and men and have each group come up with their answer. When you come together again, compare answers.)

What does “sanctify her” mean?

37 αγιαζο hagiozo {hag-ee-ad'-zo}  
AV - sanctify 26, hallow 2, be holy 1; 29  
1) to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow  
2) to separate from profane things and dedicate to God  
2a) consecrate things to God  
2b) dedicate people to God  
3) to purify  
3a) to cleanse externally  
3b) to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin  
3c) to purify internally by renewing of the soul

What does “washing of the water with the word” mean?

3067 λουτρον loutron {loo-tron'}  
AV - washing 2; 2  
1) bathing, bath, the act of bathing

How can you do that?

What are some very practical ways a husband can be the spiritual leader of his wife?

## A Father's Instruction – 6:4

How can a father provoke their child to wrath?

3949 παροργιζο parorgizo {par-org-id'-zo}  
AV - anger 1, provoke to wrath 1; 2  
1) to rouse to wrath, to provoke, exasperate, anger

What are some practical ways you can raise your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord?

1625 εκτρεφο ektrepho {ek-tref'-o}  
AV - nourish 1, bring up 1; 2  
1) to nourish up to maturity, to nourish  
2) to nurture, bring up

3809 παιδεια paideia {pahee-di'-ah}  
AV - chastening 3, nurture 1, instruction 1, chastisement 1; 6  
1) the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body  
2) whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, esp. by correcting mistakes and curbing passions.  
2a) instruction which aims at increasing virtue  
2b) chastisement, chastening, (of the evils with which God visits men for their amendment)

3559 νουθεσια nouthesia {noo-thes-ee'-ah}  
AV - admonition 3; 3  
1) admonition, exhortation

Deut. 6:6-7 - <sup>6</sup>And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; <sup>7</sup>and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

List some practical ways a father can be the spiritual leader of his children?

## Conclusion:

God's expectation on His men is very high. What do we need to do to get move toward His ideal?

What would your wife say you need to do to come closer to the role of spiritual leader in the home?

Wives, how can you encourage your husband to be more of a spiritual leader?

What practical thing can you start doing that would move you in the direction of being a spiritual leader?