

A Husbands' Manifesto
A Biblical Look at a Husbands role in Marriage

1. A Husband is the head of his wife, and is a picture of Christ and the Church.

Verse(s): Ephesians 5:22-24, 1 Corinthians 11:3

Notes:

- The way a man treats his wife will determine whether he is speaking the truth about Christ or not.
- Husband as head: The reason the woman was created after Adam was for the purpose of establishing, for all time, the line of authority in the home. (Genesis 2, I Corinthians 11:8-10)
- Husbands, as head of their wives, assume a God given leadership role. This leadership should be model after Christ's servant leadership. (John 13:1-17)
- Furthermore, in his leadership role, a husband is called to empower his wife, sacrifice for his wife, and the leadership role is not a license to indulge himself.
- As the husband is head of his wife, and his wife is called to submit to him, they are seen as equal in value to Christ. (Galatians 3:28-29)
- The Bible does not require submission of women to men, but rather of a woman to a man.
- The submission of a wife to a husband actually protects her from obligations to other men.

2. Husbands are commanded to love their wives to the uttermost.

Verse(s): Ephesians 5:25-30

Notes:

- A husband must love his wife with a sacrificial love, and must show that love with sacrificial action. (1 John 3:18)
- A husband's love for his wife is not based upon her performance, but on her worth as God's gift to him.
- A husband must let his wife know verbally that he values her, respects her, and loves her.

3. A Husband must supply his wife with the food and provisions she needs.

Verse(s): Exodus 21:10-11, I Timothy 5:8

Notes:

- This is one way a husband can serve his wife, and model Christ's love for his wife. Christ wouldn't let his church go without the provisions that they need, and so neither should husbands allow wives to go without the food and provisions she needs.

4. Man is given a calling and vocation, and his wife is called to accompany and assist him in his calling.

Verse(s): Ephesians 2:10, 1 Cor. 11:8-10

Notes:

- Under God, he is defined by the work to which he is called, while she is defined by the man to whom she is called.

5. A Husband is completely responsible for all problems in a marriage and in the home.

Verse(s): 1 Corinthians 11:3-10

Notes:

- Husbands are responsible for their wives: They are the head of their wives as Christ is the head of the church. Taking a covenant oath to become a husband involves assuming responsibility for that home.
- Even if the wife gives advice to a husband, and the situation goes terribly wrong, the husband still needs to assume responsibility.

6. Husbands must honor wives as the weaker vessel, and must not exploit that weakness.

Verse(s): 1 Peter 3:7

Notes:

- Husbands must respect the wives 'weakness' and not exploit it.
- In order for men to respect weakness, they need to see it as their own weakness. She is not his adversary.... The weakness is on his own team, it is in his own family. In this way, his strength becomes her strength. For example, when kids disobey mom, dad steps in and makes sure that never happens again.
- The husband must make a conscious decision to utilize his strength for her protection and benefit, not his own. In the Christian family, the way to an understanding of true authority is through service. (John 13:13-17)

7. A Husband must meet his wife's sexual needs.

Verse(s): 1 Corinthians 7:3-4

Notes:

- Paul uses very strong language in this area in 1 Corinthians; in fact, he writes that this is an area where the wife exercises authority over her husband.
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9. Husbands must be *Evangelical Husbands*, that is, Husbands who understand historic Protestant orthodoxy, and who live in a way that is consistent with that understanding.

Verse(s): Joshua 24:15

Notes:

- A husband must establish his home as a confessional home, that is, he must know what he believes and he must communicate and teach this confession of faith to his family.
- A man may not be a vocational theologian, but in his home he must be the resident theologian. He must say, "*Given my time, resources, and abilities, how much can I learn, and how much can I teach my wife and children?*" (1 Cor. 14:35)