

Canceled
A Roadmap for Living In Exile
Submission in Marriage – Part 2
1 Peter 3:7

Introduction: Last week we looked at 1 Peter 3:1-6 which was all about how a wife should live in submission to her husband. Implicit in the conversation was that a husband, by God's design, has the job to lead the marriage and the family. Another term often used for this leadership position is "headship." Where does that term come from and what does it mean?

We'll let me first take you back to where everything begins – the book of Genesis. To those who question the inspiration and authority of the Old Testament, remember that in Matthew 19:4-6 Jesus himself quoted the passage we are about to look at.

Genesis 2:18-22 provides two clear proofs that God made man to be the leader of the marriage and family.

The first proof is in Genesis 2:18

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

- (1) The Hebrew word for "helper" means assistant and necessarily implies being under the leadership of the one being helped. God made Eve to be Adam's helper. (Genesis 2:18)**
- A. "helper, assistant, i.e., one who assists and serves another with what is needed."¹
 - B. "While this word designates assistance, it is more frequently used in a concrete sense to designate the assistant."²

The 2nd proof that God made man to be the leader of his wife and marriage is in verses 19-22,

19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Schultz, C. (1999). **1598 עֵזֶר**. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 661). Chicago: Moody Press.

closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. (Genesis 2:19-22)

(2) God bringing the woman to Adam to name, demonstrated that God was giving Adam authority over her as his wife. (Genesis 2:19-22)

Note: God was delegating authority to Adam to name all that God created and has authority over as God. In creating Eve to be Adam's wife he did the same thing.

So that those of you who are new to the Bible don't think I'm formulating the wrong conclusions from Genesis 2, let me share with you two different passages where the New Testament makes the husbands leadership of the home real clear.

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. (Ephesians 5:22-24)

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (Colossians 4:18)

This doesn't mean he has to make all the decisions, as a matter of fact, wise leaders delegate decisions to people who are better at making those decisions. For instance, a wise husband who knows he's bad at managing money or not simply as good at it as his wife, will delegate those decisions to his wife and support her with what she needs to make the best decisions possible in that area. But, whether the husband is making the decisions or he is delegating those decisions, he's still tasked with being the head of the marriage and thus the one God is going to hold accountable for the marriage that exists under God's authority, not man's (what God joined together let no man separate). However,

Genesis 2 also provides us with two very important clarifications.

(1) Creating Eve to be Adam's helper was not degrading. The Bible uses the word to describe God! It implies a function not value. (Psalm 33:20, Hosea 13:9)

- A. "The Hebrew term used here, *ezer*, refers broadly to rendering aid. While used to refer to subordinates, the word does not necessarily imply inferiority: God is called Israel's helper (*ezer* in Hebrew; Hos 13:9)"³
- B. "The clue which leads us to that conclusion is the fact that the word 'helper' is especially used of divine assistance, when Yahweh aids a human (see Deut. 33:7; Ps. 33:20; 121:1-2)." ⁴

³ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Ge 2:18). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

⁴ Currid, J. D. (n.d.). [A Study Commentary on Genesis: Genesis 1:1-25:18](#) (Vol. 1, p. 110). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

- C. 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. (Psalm 33:20)
- D. 9 He destroys you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper. (Hosea 13:9)

Th 2nd important clarification that Genesis 2 also provides us is ...

- (2) One of the reasons God created a woman from a man was to demonstrate that the purpose of marriage is not authority but oneness. (Genesis 2:19-24)
 - A. Look again at the passage and I bet you will see it.
 - B. **19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:19-24)**
 - C. God did not make marriage for men to rule women, he made marriage so a man and woman can experience oneness!
 - D. Every animal God made, including man, He made from dirt. However, God made woman out of man! There is an inherent oneness in that creation that is unlike any other created being; but just in case Adam didn't understand the significance of it, God made it clear in verse 24!
 - E. Certainly, one flesh has a sexual context in the instruction to be fruitful and multiply, but its most significant implication is the oneness that these two distinct individuals can have because they are literally made of the same flesh and thus intended to live their lives as one flesh! A husband is indeed the head of the marital relationship, but he is still one with his wife just as she is supposed to be one with him. God made them with oneness as their purpose!

So why am I telling you this? The reason is the reaction our culture is having to what my friend Jason Luker calls, "Marlboro Man Masculinity." It's his way of labeling the form of masculinity that was neither Biblical nor effective, but was nonetheless popularized in our

culture by the church! Predictably, the reaction to this unbiblical and ineffective concept of masculinity has been to take everything masculine out of masculinity, including the leadership role God created men to be responsible for in marriage. Make no mistake, regardless of the current trends in our culture, from a Biblical standpoint there is no question whatsoever that God created marriage with an authority structure, and that in that structure God gave the man in the marriage the job of being the husband, and as such the job of serving the marriage and the family as the head. It just has nothing to do with the arrogant, and frankly insecurity version, of masculinity that too many churches have taught.

So, what does it look like for a husband to lead his home? Well, the very next thing Peter wrote after teaching women how to submit to their husbands as the head of the home (1 Peter 3:1-6) was this,

7 LIKEWISE, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)

Remember the term “LIKEWISE” links us back to the theme of submission and suffering that Peter has clearly been communicating since 1 Peter 2:13. I’m not going to take any time to walk you back through that today, so if you want more thought on that theme go back to the previous three sermons. They are all available on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. All I need you to remember today is that Peter has already informed his readers that they need to live submissively to every human authority and institution, even when that authority treats them unjustly, thus the theme of suffering.

There are some scholars who do all kind of work to try and untie 1 Peter 3:7 from that very clear theme and discussion of submission and suffering, but the fact of the matter is you can’t with any logic or integrity make the word “likewise” in verse seven do anything but what it did in verse one – take us straight to it! Therefore, there is no doubt whatsoever that 1 Peter 3:7 is teaching men how to have a submissive form of leadership (also called servant leadership) as they serve as the head of the marriage and family!

Specifically,

Proposition: 1 Peter 3:7 teaches five keys for a Christian husband to faithfully live out the principle of submission in his marriage.

The 1st key for a Christian husband to faithfully live out the principle of submission in his marriage is that ...

(1) A husband must understand that his leadership of the marriage isn’t for his glory but his wife’s. – “7 Likewise, husbands,”

- A. We have already established that the word “Likewise” links us to the continuing theme of submission and suffering that Peter got going in 1 Peter 2:13.

Therefore, at the core of what it means to be in the position of husband in a marriage is the principle of submission and suffering. Some may say, I get how the theme of “suffering” is inherent to leadership, that’s not hard to understand; however, how do you possibly put the concept of submission with leadership? Well, there is no better passage in the Bible to explain that than Ephesians 5:25-33,

- B. 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. 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. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:25-33)**
- C. In Ephesians 5 the Apostle Paul made it abundantly clear that the husband is the head of the marriage just as Christ is the head of the church, but as such, the husband is obligated to do for his wife just as Christ has done for the church! The husband is to glorify her as Christ has glorified and will glorify the church!
- D. So many in our society view leadership, not as a responsibility to bless and prosper those under their authority, but rather a right to be blessed and prospered by those under their authority! Leadership is seen as a privilege rather than a responsibility. You don’t earn the right to be a leader, you earn the responsibility to be a leader! That is the very definition and essence of leadership, taking the responsibility of making sure those who follow you are successful!
- E. And listen, to those who are uncomfortable with the idea that God would glorify us; let me let the Scriptures be clear on the subject. Jesus said,
- F. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (John 17:22-23)**
- G. In the book of Romans, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to make sure everybody understood what Jesus meant,

- 1. 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Romans 8:16-17)**
 - 2. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Romans 8:30)**
- H. So let me stitch all this together with a passage of Scripture that makes leadership in God's Kingdom clearly different than any concept of leadership in this world. Matthew 20:21-28 reads,
- I. **20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. 21 And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." 22 Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." 23 He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." 24 And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. 25 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. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:21-28)**
- J. Christ made it clear to this mother and his disciples that leadership is not a privilege but responsibility! This in no way implies Jesus ever stopped being the clear leader of the disciples, nor the clear leader of the Church. It in no way implies that Jesus takes a poll to find out what everybody wants them to do, then does that. It implies that He came to give glory rather demand it, give life instead of taking it; He came not looking for us to serve His needs but to instead serve ours!
- K. Therefore, out the gate, when Peter identifies married men as husbands, and thus head of the marriage, he is necessarily invoking everything Jesus and His Gospel teaches us about the subject of leadership and its responsibility! Peter is teaching verse seven from the perspective of what Jesus himself taught Peter and the rest of the disciples about headship and leadership, and that is, at the core, a husband is not there to be glorified and served by his wife, but rather to glorify and serve his wife!

The 2nd key for a Christian husband to faithfully live out the principle of submission in his marriage is that ...

(2) A husband must see his wife's needs through her eyes. – “live with your wives in an understanding way,”

- A. Understanding has to do with perspective and attitude. For me to “understand” somebody I have to interpret their feelings and perspectives from their vantage point and context. Not doing so is literally not understanding them.
- B. It’s another way of talking about empathy, and empathy is a key component to leadership. At the core, empathy is the willingness to submit your perspectives to somebody else’s so that you can genuinely see what they see and feel what they feel! The irony is that until you can see and feel a situation the way another person sees and feels it, you can’t effectively serve them in it nor lead them out of it!
- C. Jesus of course exemplified this. The Bible says,
 - 1. **21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)**
 - 2. **15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 5:15)**
- D. Understanding means you are not creating the narrative about their opinions, circumstances, and feelings, but rather you are allowing them to create the narrative. We as men often want to press on our wives how we feel they should think and feel about something, instead of listening to them to truly understand why they think and feel the way they do!
- E. Furthermore, seeing things through our wives’ eyes is not an effort to get in her head to find a way to prove to her we are right! This is not opposition research! It can’t be an effort to win. It has to be a genuine effort to truly understand where she’s coming from.
- F. I’m not a big reader of Warren Wiersbe but I thought he summed this up best when he wrote,
 - G. **“How can a husband show consideration for his wife if he does not understand her needs or problems?”⁵**

⁵ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 410). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- H. A husband's leadership of the home is dependent not on doing the will of his wife, that's not any form of leadership; but rather, on having a heart so genuinely submitted to bless his wife with life that he's committed to understand her so that he can!

The 3rd key for a Christian husband to faithfully live out the principle of submission in his marriage is that ...

(3) Other than God Himself, a husband must view and treat his wife as the most precious entity in his life. – “showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel,”

- A. “The word “honor” is the translation of the same Greek word in 1:19 translated “precious.” ... They should treat them with special deference, courtesy, respect, and kindness.”⁶
- B. To honor somebody is to place them above yourself. The Greek word here for honor is also translated as “precious” and it means to consider somebody as so extremely rare that they are impossible to replace!
- C. Now the odd part comes after the word that can be translated as “precious,” that is when he writes, “**showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel**”. What's the weaker vessel thing about, and what's that got to do with honoring your wife as the most precious entity one could ever have?
- D. Let me first say the word weaker here in NO way implies spiritually, intellectually, or emotionally weaker. The Faithlife Study Bible correctly notes,
- E. “The context does not suggest any spiritual, intellectual, or moral inferiority since both males and females were created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27).”⁷**
- F. The word literally means, as well as contextually means, the physically weaker vessel. Oddly, there are those in our day in age who watched too many Disney movies and now disagree with science on this matter. In general, women, by nature are physically weaker than men. That's as much of a fact as the laws of science about gravity. For instance, Allyson Felix was one of the fastest female sprinters in world history. Not just U.S. history, but WORLD history. Her lifetime best for the 400 meters was 49.26 seconds. But based on 2018 data, nearly *three hundred* high school boys in the U.S. alone could beat that record.⁸ That's not the top 300 adult male sprinters in the world, that's just the top 300

⁶ Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader* (Vol. 11, pp. 82–83). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

⁷ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (1 Pe 3:7). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

⁸ <https://www.prageru.com/the-end-of-womens-sports>

nonadult High School sprinters in the United States. In the Spring of 1990 during my Junior year of High School, we had 8 guys on my track team that could beat one of the greatest adult female sprinters in world history. This is why we have laws to help protect women from the physical abuse of men and why in 1972 Title 9 was passed which “banned sex discrimination in federally funded education programs.”⁹ Title 9 opened up massive doors for biological women to finally have the opportunity for equal access to competitive sports against other biological women.

- G.** But why is Peter bringing this up? Why is Peter telling men to honor women as the weaker vessel? Well, in almost every culture the powerful are prioritized and honored over the weaker. We even see this in nature when the male lions eat first, even if the female lions made the kill. The reason is that the male lions are bigger, faster and stronger and as such are responsible for protecting the pride. Even in today’s modern society, we still honor the strong and the powerful, whether it’s in sports, politics or just life.
- H.** But Jesus comes along and rewrites the script! From Jesus flipping the cultural script in doing things like washing the feet of the disciples, to more importantly paying the debt of mankind who is too weak to even stop sinning, much less pay the debt we owe God because of it; all of these pointed to Jesus writing a different script. He is the stronger who deserves honor, yet He honored the weaker who in no way deserved it!
- I.** Furthermore, Peter is writing this in a time when honoring the weaker was a totally foreign concept, even more than it is in our society. But that’s what Peter just told these husbands to do. Peter is telling these men, yes, you are physically stronger; yes, your society needs you to defend it; yes, you can physically accomplish things women have no chance at achieving, and yes everything in a lost sinful society and nature says you are to be honored and precious for it, but that’s not how God sees it! God says because you are a man, and because you have this power, you are to use it to HONOR your wife, not demand that she honor you! As a husband, you are to truly consider and treat your wife as the most precious entity in your life next to God Himself, and as such, use the strength and masculinity that God gave you to honor her!
- J.** It’s also important that we notice that showing honor to our wife is not dependent on our wife. That is, we are not told to do this on some conditional basis of when we feel our wife has earned our honor, but rather because God said to do it! This is absolutely a command from Peter with no condition, but it is the next key that truly highlights why a man should honor his wife!

⁹ <https://www.history.com/news/title-nine-womens-sports>

The 4th key for a Christian husband to faithfully live out the principle of submission in his marriage is that ...

- (4) A husband must always realize his wife has the same standing with God as he does. - “since they are heirs with you of the grace of life,”**
- A.** This takes us fully into to understanding the woman a man is married to is first and foremost a daughter of God, and as such, how a husband loves and serves his wife should reflect who her daddy is! Now I can’t love my wife the way God does, but it better be my standard!
 - B.** As a father of two daughters this emphasis registers big with me. Whoever marries my daughters will only get my blessing if they fully understand that I’m going to hold them accountable to love them at least as much as I do.
 - C.** To be fellow heirs also removes any concept of superiority. A Christian wife is no more or no less valued, loved or blessed by God than the husband. Remember, a husband is the leader of the home but that is a responsibility, not an identity, just as being a wife is a responsibility and not an identity. A man and a woman are both are equally created by God, and if saved, are equally children of God. Paul wrote,
 - D.** **“28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)**
 - E.** D.R. Helm stated this so well when he wrote, **“Sadly, Peter needed to remind husbands that their wives are fellow heirs with them of the grace of life. They are equal partners and partakers of the glory that is to be revealed on the last day. As such, they should be treated with respect and dignity. After all, they are, like you, the very bride of Christ. They too have been bought with his blood. They also are the majestic ones in whom is his delight. Therefore, men, take care. Your charge is of eternal value and is priceless in the sight of God.”¹⁰**
 - F.** Husbands, if your wife is a follower of Christ, then your wife is first and foremost a fully favored daughter of God. In addition, she is a part of the church, and the church is the bride of Christ. He’s not only coming back to get His Bride, but He’s going to reign down His wrath on all who treated His bride unjustly! I mean there is just no where we can go to find any comfort or rational reason to do treat our wives any differently than how Christ has treated His church! That reality should TOTALLY dominate how we view and treat our wives! But just in case we didn’t get the point, Peter has one more thing to say!

¹⁰ Helm, D. R. (2008). [*1 & 2 Peter and Jude: sharing christ's sufferings*](#) (p. 108). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

The 5th key for a Christian husband to faithfully live out the principle of submission in his marriage is that ...

(5) A husband must understand that how he treats others, especially his wife, necessarily effects his relationship with the Lord. – “so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

- A. The most literal interpretation of this verse is that it’s a threat! Its saying that God doesn’t prioritize the prayers of men who refuse to honor their wives. We are going to see this again next week so let’s just take a quick peak at what we are going to see. Peter writes,
- B. **12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (1 Peter 3:12)**
- C. So, it’s not that God can’t physically hear the prayers of a husband who doesn’t honor his wife, but rather God may refuse to consider them (hindered)!
- D. When you take into account what we just talked about in the previous key, that the woman you are married to is a favored child of God, and then multiply that through the perspective of how protective Father’s view their daughters; then you shouldn’t be shocked that Peter says if a Christian man refuses to honor his wife God very well may decide to refuse to give his prayers any consideration!
- E. So, in other words, this is intended to be a threat from the eternal Father of the bride! It is intended to be a threat from the one every man of God longs to be approved by more than anything or anybody!
- F. I love what John Calvin said of this verse,
- G. **“For we are more than insane, if we knowingly and willfully close up the way to God’s presence by prayer, since this is the only asylum of our salvation.”¹¹**
- H. In God’s Kingdom there is only one throne, and Jesus is the only one sitting on it! When we start acting like our wife is there to praise and honor us, then we are saying we think we deserve to sit on the throne of Jesus! If you think for one second you can be in a healthy, mature, fruit bearing relationship with God and not honor and serve your wife, but rather demand she honor and serve you, then you are living with your head stuck in the sand! The fact that you aren’t honoring and serving your wife, but instead demanding they do that to you, is a

¹¹ Calvin, J., & Owen, J. (2010). *Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles* (pp. 100–101). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

very clear testimony that you are living for your own glory instead of His! And this takes me right to the challenge,

Challenge: Would your wife say the leadership of your home is empowering and giving life to her and your children, or is it about being empowered and getting life from them?

I'm serious about this challenge. I asked my wife when I was preparing this sermon. We read my sermon manuscript together every week, so I had to ask her and listen to the answer!

As we discussed, a husband is the head of his household as Christ is the head of the church, but as such, Christ "submitted" Himself to the needs of the church in that He gave Himself for the church, not the other way around. "Submissive leadership" is "Servant Leadership."

"Servant Leadership" means the leader is there for the betterment and success of those they lead rather than expecting those under their leadership to be there for his success. Christ died on the cross to make us successful. He came for the betterment of the church, to give the church eternal life, and as such did a task nobody but Him could do – pay the penalty of our sin!

However, at no point did He ever stop being the head! At no point did Jesus ever stop leading. Jesus demonstrated he was more than willing to do the task of a servant (i.e., he washed their feet) but he did it as an example of his heart and as such to point to the cross and show what it means to live for the betterment and success of those you lead rather than your own. But he didn't relinquish his place of authority, and he didn't take back the task list so that he spent all day doing the things he had delegated to his disciples. Doing that would not be "servant leadership" but rather "terrible leadership" or "no leadership."

"Servant Leadership" doesn't relinquish headship, it relinquishes arrogance. "Servant Leadership" is an upside-down pyramid of PURPOSE. Servant leadership is there to give life instead of take it!

And listen, you can invert servant leadership to really be about yourself, that is you can run around doing everything for everybody, and as such, always being sure to do everything everybody wants so that everybody loves you and praises you! See how it ends the same way. You're not living to give life; you're living to take life to fill your sense of self-worth. You're living for the approval of your wife instead of from the approval of God!

Therefore, in marriage, husbands are not told to surrender the role of headship, they are told to make sure their headship is there for the benefit of those they lead, so that their leadership is a service to and for the wife!

Therefore, is your leadership giving life or taking life? Is your leadership all about getting your wife to love you, serve you and honor you, or is your leadership all about loving, serving, and honoring your wife because you understand the significance that God gave her

to you to love as He loves you. Are you living with the understanding that God gave you a wife not to dominate but to elevate; not get life but to rather to share the life that you have been given by Christ!

So just as we talked about last week with wives. Men, if you want to have life to give then you must get it from the only one who has it – Jesus!

27 Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." (John 6:27)