

## Angie's Marriage Column – August 19, 2009

### Husband Not Interested in Being Spiritual Head

**Ask Angie:** I'm not even sure I should be writing this because the very act of me doing this may be usurping spiritual headship. I don't know what to do anymore. I love my husband more than anyone on this earth, but he's not interested in being the spiritual head that God has designed him to be. I encourage as best I can, even establishing Bible study that he wants me to organize, note-take and dispense. Am I wrong? I'm so frustrated and just tired of assuming this position, yet not wanting our children to succumb any lower in the worldly mentality. Do I allow spiritual deterioration in the name of obedience, or do I stop it?

I get so downhearted because my friends are married to spiritually strong men. No, I don't push that on my husband, in fact I keep my mouth shut. I'm not a Jezebel, honest; I'm a wife and mother who wants better for her family. And I'm scared of what will happen if something doesn't change.

**Marriage Guidance:** I believe that coming to our marriage ministry would not be usurping your husband's headship because it is not doing or saying anything that would undermine his position, but in fact would be helping the growth of your marriage and family.

I recommend for those of you who are reading this column today to use it as a bible study and follow the links to the articles to give you a more thorough understanding of this subject for marriage.

This can be a touchy issue with some people, especially if they do not understand or realize what their [God given roles and positions in marriage](#) are. Don't let ignorance keep you spiritually inside a box. Learn all you can about this subject so you may teach others about God's truths.

I'm not sure "why" a husband would not be administering his God-given position in the home, but *that* is the key to actually resolving this issue. So we'll discuss several reasons why a Christian husband may not take his God-given position with the care it needs, and then what you can do to gently influence him to do so.

I believe a wife is her husband's right arm (help meet [Gen: 2:18](#)) and God expects her to be an encouragement and helpful influence to her husband in times such as these. If you remain quiet on how you feel, you won't be *helping your husband come to terms* with his leadership responsibilities in the marriage, and he may take your silence to mean that you enjoy taking the lead, particularly in those areas that are his responsibility like establishing bible study.

But...there is a certain way that a wife must approach this area with her husband and we will talk about that in a minute.

### **Why Would A Christian Man Not Take His Headship Position Seriously?**

1) In many Christian homes today [the wife is already assuming the headship position, in the way she thinks is appropriate](#), leaving her husband to unload the dishwasher and take out the garbage. In most instances the wife doesn't even realize she is doing this. Rather than argue and fuss, husband gets frustrated and spends more and more time out with his buddies, at work, or on the Internet, or... He feels demoted, inadequate and of no importance to his wife or marriage. (He himself may not even know the reason why he feels this way but it is because he has no purpose or importance for himself in the marriage.)

Wife becomes angry, frustrated and bitter because she feels that her husband isn't doing anything for her... or to help around the house! But unbeknownst to her she is demeaning him with menial tasks around the home rather than allowing him to do the tasks that God meant for him to partake in—to be the one who wears the pants in the home! A husband may not begrudgingly take out the garbage if his wife gave him back his pants.

Do you see how that works? It's a vicious cycle. No wonder there is so much adultery, addiction and frustration in marriage. This mixed up view of headship and slanted views on a wife's submission also ruins intimacy between couples in a BIG way.

2) Husband does not know it is his job to be the spiritual lead. Many churches are not teaching the importance of the roles and responsibilities in marriage. This leaves couples oblivious to what their purpose in the marriage really is. Marriages fail because couples aren't following the design meant for marriage.

3) [Wife thinks her husband is controlling her and rebels against his authority](#). Some husbands can't take the constant [battle of the sexes](#) between him and his wife when he does take his position seriously, and so just gives in to his wife's demands. When a wife disrespects her husband and his God given position he feels powerless, rejected, and undermined and this causes much friction and disharmony between them. This is why [couples think they aren't in love anymore](#)... it is because they have literally stopped loving each other in the ways of the Lord!

4) Husband is introverted or shy and doesn't really know how to begin establishing his role as spiritual head. Here again this falls back onto the mainstream churches for not teaching the roles and duties of marriage. But I can't entirely blame the churches since it is the individual's responsibility to know what the scriptures mean and to know what God's will is for their life.

(Too many people rely on the pastors and overseers of the church for teaching them about Christ and the duties of a Christian and that is ok, but you still have to do more for your

self. Many churches only teach what “people want to hear” and leave out much of Christ’s teachings and principles for Christian living.) That is not fair to you or to God.

5) Husband does *not have a right relationship with God* and therefore cannot or won’t take the spiritual lead. We have to be renewed in the love of Christ before we can finally be givers instead of takers. Before we realize what are purpose and Christian duties are in marriage. We have to [properly take care of and feed ourselves first, and we do that through the workings of Christ in our life!](#)

I believe from reading your letter, that in your instance, it is number four that is keeping your husband from overseeing his headship position in the marriage. This is where you come in. First let me tell you this. I have talked about this marriage column in length with my own husband, Frank and it never ceases to amaze me that I always glean something new from his wonderful wisdom and spiritual authority. In this instance I asked Frank, because I wanted a guys point of view, about what or how you can approach your husband without him feeling like you are telling him what to do, or usurping his manhood and leadership.

Last year I wrote an article on this subject called [The Man Who Wouldn’t Lead His Family](#) and I said that a wife should not beg, plead, scream and yell or nag her husband, and obviously you already know that. But I never said what you should do. But you shouldn’t remain totally silent about it either, especially since you are feeling so downhearted about the fact that he is having you assume his role. Frank and I both believe this is one instance where a wife’s *help meet* to her husband comes into play.

Have you ever heard of meek assertiveness? Neither have I, but that is how you ought to approach this subject, when the time is right. And here is why I think this. If a wife *feels uncomfortable* with assuming the spiritual lead then obviously it is negatively affecting her emotionally and the husband needs to know about it. Yes, a wife should be meek and humble with her husband, but I also believe it is not wise to keep feelings such as these buried where they can bring on resentment and animosity between couples at a later time.

On the reverse side of the coin, if a wife has to beg or nag her husband to partake in his God-given responsibilities then he is not ready to take over. Pleading or begging will make him divert the subject even more.

Both husband and wife need to know what their own duties and roles are in the marriage. This way they can encourage and support each other in these roles! What can you do to “show” your husband how to appreciate his God-given duties as a Christian husband? I think when he makes small milestones in this area you should encourage that and let him know how good it makes you feel and how happy you are to be his wife. All he really needs is your encouragement.

You should inspire your husband to partake in the bible study lessons, or at the very least to help bring it all together. If he is shy and or introverted, do not totally give him the task at hand, but help him along the way so he may feel more relaxed talking in front of

groups of people. Do it with him rather than tell him to handle it on his own. Once he realizes that no one is going to laugh at him or bite his head off, he may be more willing to assume his role.

Now a husband has a lot more duties than just establishing bible study on Sunday if he is to assume his headship position. There are many different areas of responsibility that a husband must partake in if he is to take his leadership role seriously. A husband should also be a financial provider, protector and major disciplinary of the children in the home, but you did not mention any of these areas so I am assuming that these areas are not a problem.

What happens in a home when the husband leads the household with the spiritual authority God gave him? [How can a man become the spiritual leader in his home?](#) What are the responsibilities of a spiritual leader?

Spiritual leadership in the home involves more than just words. The husband absolutely must be under the direction and authority of Jesus Christ. Christ should be made the director over the husband/wife. When a man can freely submit his own will to Christ, he is ready to take charge and lead his home in a Godly manner, in all areas. And a wife can freely submit her will to her husband, and allow her husband to do what God appointed him to do.

So the bottom line is we must take all things to Christ and place him as our authority in our lives in ALL things. He is our head, from which everything flows.

Scripturally speaking for the believer a husband's priorities should look like this.

1. God/Christ
2. Wife
3. Children/family
4. Fellow man/ministry
5. self

Scripturally speaking for the believer a wife's priorities should look like this.

1. God/Christ
2. Husband
3. Children/family
4. Fellow man/ministry
5. self

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:2-5 NIV)

Take care and God Bless!  
Frank and Angie  
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