

Angie's Marriage Column – Wednesday August 08, 2007

What if Husband Won't Lead as the Christian Head?

Marriage Question: What if my husband will not lead as the Christian head?

This is a very good question. There are several reasons why a husband would not take the spiritual lead in his home and I will go over a few of those reasons so you can get a better idea of what you both can do to resolve the situation.

Response: Your husband may not know how to lead his own household. If your husband was brought up in a home with a domineering mother who directed the home front and bossed her husband around then he may not know any different, and especially if your Church does not teach this very important aspect of marriage and family.

Unfortunately, many of the mainstream churches are teaching people what itching ears want to hear, anything controversial or traditional, that goes against the teachings of the feminist movement or political correctness is not going to be taught publicly in most churches. But God standards for living never change like the culture of society does.

It is all about you and your beliefs – forget about what society says and does. That's the problem, because it can be confusing when we see Christian marriages with the same kinds of problems as non-Christian marriages. If a person is a "Christ One" it would go without saying that *that* person would follow Christ, right? We cannot say we are "Christ Ones" and then follow the beliefs of an amoral society!

As believers we need to take up our own cross and follow Christ and His teachings for our lives or either we really are not who we say we are. If your husband is having some issues of his own then maybe he needs to take that up with Christ, which would be between him and Christ.

If your husband is not taking the spiritual lead in the home, you might want to give him a little guided nudge, as well as encouragement and support in this area. I suggest that you both read the scriptures that refer to how a man should lead his home and also the responsibilities of the wife who submits to her husband's headship role.

Wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.
(Ephesians 5:22 – 24 NIV)

The spiritual headship that God is talking about here is one of service. A husband's example to follow would be that of Christ serving his disciples. In the same way the

husband is to serve his wife. A husband is serving his family when he provides for and protects them from outside harms and evils.

A Christian husband's first priority is to Jesus Christ. A man must submit his own life to Christ *first* before he can even begin to lead his home properly in the ways of the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (Ephesians 5: 25-27 NIV)

A husband should be willing to sacrifice everything for his wife by making her well being more important than his own. He does this by providing for her financially and protecting her against dangers of the outside world. This is not a difficult task when the wife is doing her job of respecting and honoring her husband's position of authority.

As I always say in my writings, there is no room for selfishness in marriage. God created His people to "serve" one another - not themselves.

In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife, loves himself. After all no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church. (Ephesians 5: 28-30 NIV)

The other reason why your husband may not be leading the home is because he thinks that you are already doing it, and there is nothing left for him to do. In that case, you may want to look at the areas in your own life that you may be picking up the slack for your husband. Some men just kind of "go with the flow" of daily living and tag along like they don't have anything else to do, but this is actually harmful to the marriage because it takes away the importance of the husband's role and turns it into a superficiality of marriage.

For your husband to be the head of the marriage, you must first submit to him and let him know that you trust him in leading you and the family in the spiritual ways he has been blessed with by God. Encourage him to take up the leadership role and be humble and submissive to him in everything.

The union of marriage, the way God designed it, merges husband and wife in such a way that little can affect one without affecting the other. We should be caring for our spouse in the same way we would care for ourselves, by anticipating his or her needs, and helping each other become all he or she can become.

What kind of a Christian man would not want to be the king of his castle, and what kind of a Christian woman would want to take her husband's God given position from him? There are many confused Christian people who have been misled, over the years, into following the ways of the world rather than God's ways. Is that what a Christian is supposed to do? What are the responsibilities of a Christian?

Your husband needs to believe in himself and know that it is his responsibility and duty as a servant of Christ to lead his home in the spiritual truth that comes from God. He also needs to know that he can trust you to continue respecting, loving, and caring for him as a wife should. You both must try and do the best you can and continually pray that God give you the wisdom and instruction every single day. And then work off of that foundation – always keeping Christ as your first priority in all things.

In Christ,
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Resources: [Love the Woman You Married](#)

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