



Biblical Portrait of Headship

- By God's design, the husband is the Head of the wife and lovingly exercises his delegated authority.



Biblical Principals for the Head

1. Head of the wife is the Husband because of God's Decision. Eph 5:23-24

Head: is to be a leader; authority, responsibility

2. The Head is to be the active leader who lovingly Rules and Provides.

I Tim 3:2, 4-5 and I Tim 5 :8

Rule: Care; stand in front of; guard



Biblical Principals for the Head

3. The Head leads not by lording it over or exercising authority over his wife but with understanding and by giving Honor.

Mark 10:42; I Peter 3:7

4. The Head submits to God's primary call to be his wife's Head and devotes himself to her above ALL. Eph 5: 25-29



Biblical Principals for the Head

5. The Head is the spiritual leader who matures his wife to become Blameless, Holy, and Glorious.
Eph 5:25-27

PERSONAL PLEDGE

Get alone with your wife and review the following statements together. Discuss them briefly together. Explain your desire to move in the direction of becoming a loving leader. Then speak your personal pledge to her out loud. If she feels comfortable, your wife may join you in the joint pledge and then speak the wife's pledge to you.

TOGETHER: We affirm today that God designed the husband to be the head of the wife. We willingly choose to submit to God's designed for our marriage.

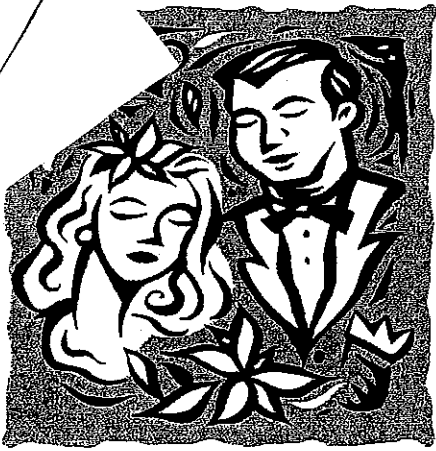
HUSBAND: I commit to you that I will respond to God's call on my life to be your head. I ask for your forgiveness for the times I have failed you and not been the head that the Lord expects me to be. I hereby pledged to be an active leader who serves you with an understanding and gentle Spirit.

WIFE: I commit to you that I will respond to God's call on my life to follow you as my head. I ask for your forgiveness for the times I have struggled against you as my head and therefore not pleased the Lord. I hereby pledge to give you my respect and follow you as my head.



Biblical Portrait of Love

As head of the wife, the husband chooses to love his wife unconditionally, sacrificially and loyally as Christ loved the church.



Biblical Perspective of Love

1. Love your wife because God commands you to agape.
(Unconditional, sacrificial, loyal, continually, actively, by choice)

I Cor 13:4-8

2. Love your wife as Christ loved the church and give yourself sacrificially.

Eph:25, 28-29



Biblical Perspective of Love

3. Love your wife and do not become bitter. (Not harsh, but tender, gentle, building up, empowering) Col 3:19

4. Love your wife and purposefully nourish and cherish her. Eph 5:28-29

5. Love your wife fervently and never allow your love to grow cold. I Cor 13:8(a)

PERSONAL PLEDGE

TOGETHER: We affirm today that God has called the husband to love his wife in the same way that Jesus Christ loves the church — unconditionally, sacrificially, and consistently.

HUSBAND: I commit to love you above all others and with all of my heart. I know how very important my love is to you so I pledge to loyally love you and never withdraw my love from you. I am your devoted husband and commit to nourish and cherish you as my beloved wife "til death do us part."

WIFE: I receive your love and treasure it above all others. I, too, pledge my loyalty to you and hereby commit to become the kind of wife you find easy and wonderful to love.

CONCLUSION

At any moment in time, a man can choose to love his wife. Failing to choose is equivalent to choosing not to love her.

(BASED ON 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8)

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 on each of the following elements of love (1 being weak and 10 being strong.)

RATING

1. I am tolerant toward and accepting of my mate even when he/she displeases me (*patient*, verse 4). _____
2. I am sensitive to my mate's needs and endeavor to meet them even when I do not feel like doing it (*kind*, verse 4). _____
3. I give my mate "space" to develop his/her own potential and find his/her own fulfillment (*is not jealous*, verse 4). _____
4. I refrain from rehearsing my good points when my mate is critical of me (*does not brag*, verse 4). _____
5. I do not stubbornly insist that my way is best and demand that my mate give in to me (*is not arrogant*, verse 4). _____
6. I am considerate of my mate's feelings and courteous in my actions toward him/her (*does not act unbecomingly*, verse 5). _____
7. I endeavor to look out for my mate's best interests as much as my own (*does not seek its own*, verse 5). _____
8. I control my anger when my mate displeases me (*is not provoked*, verse 5). _____
9. I forgive and forget the wrongs my mate commits against me (*does not take into account a wrong suffered*, verse 5). _____

10. I do not take pleasure in my mate's disappointments or failures (*does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth*, verse 6). _____

11. I do not broadcast my mate's faults in order to put him/her in a poor light (*bears all things*, verse 7). _____

12. I endeavor to treat my mate with absolute trust (*believes all things*, verse 7). _____

13. I look forward to our relationship growing more meaningful and precious (*hopes all things*, verse 7). _____

14. I do not allow our problems to rob me of my joy nor of my will to go on (*endures all things*, verse 7). _____

15. I am totally and unconditionally committed to my mate until one of us is placed in the Savior's arms (*love never fails*, verse 8). _____

- 0-50 Improvement Urgent
- 51-100 Improvement Desirable
- 101-150 Learning and Growing; Keep It Up!

Walking Together

Take the Love Test. Determine in your heart to love the way Christ wants you to love and will help you to love. Now make a copy of the test and place it in some conspicuous place where you will be reminded daily of the Christ-like love. Make daily choices to be obedient in this area, depending on the Lord to give you the power to do it.

When Two Walk Together, Richard and Mary Strauss