

5 “S” Leadership

Introduction: Many times marriage feels like chaos. You may feel like your drowning in the sea of expectations, unmet obligations and disappointments. At this point it hurts and you wonder if there is a path forward together or if your marriage is destined for continual disagreement and dissatisfaction. This assignment is designed to help you discover what God says about how to lead your home. Read carefully: It’s probably not what you think.

A key question at this point is where and how you are leading your home. Is anyone leading your home and is this leadership moving your marriage and family towards peace and harmony? God, in his wisdom, has a plan that works. It involves a change of heart, direction and a willingness to yield your home again to his leadership. Your marriage will never be the marriage that God wants it to be unless you both are being led personally by God.

Most of the time when we think about leadership in the home, the fear is that specific roles, obligations and expectations will be heaped upon each other. You should know that the biblical teaching on marriage is really more about following Christ than about who’s in charge in the home and who handles which responsibilities. When you are confident that your partner is following Christ’s desires, you will be far more willing to yield your desires to a mutually agreeable decision.

A. God plan for the home involves both husband and wife working together to lead their homes. In order to accomplish this best, God does give both husbands and wives different responsibilities. Special emphasis is called to the responsibility of the men as they are instructed to sacrificially lead their families like Christ leads us. God calls husbands to the biblical leadership model of Christ. This type of leadership looks quite different than how our culture often defines leadership. When both husband and wife are committed to working together to create strong leadership in the home, they become a unified team that is leading and protecting their marriage, home and family. There are five biblical words that capture the heart of the Christian leadership model in the home. The first four belong to the husband and the fifth to the wives.

B. God calls husbands to Strong, Sacrificial, Spiritual, Servant Leadership in the home.

C. God calls their wives to Support their husbands by helping them become the servant-leader that God wants them to be.

D. When the husband abuses or abdicates his leadership responsibility or when the wife resists his leadership, the inevitable result is conflict and disunity. If you are in this position as a couple right now, don’t give up trying or settle for lesser ideals.

E. By faith, believe what God’s word teaches that when both spouses embrace God’s design, your marriage will begin to improve. If only one spouse embraces the design, you will still see improvement but more slowly. Rejecting God’s design will continue the spiral downward towards greater conflict and disunity. What you are going to learn in counseling is how to embrace God, each other and healthy biblical leadership in your home.

As individuals first, and as a couple second, work through following teachings from the Bible about the “5 S Leadership Model” and discover what biblical leadership in the home looks like and how it enables a marriage to move forward with greater peace. God’s word paints a picture of what this leadership is like. Underneath each of the following descriptions of spiritual leadership, write down some specific applications that you could make in your marriage and family leadership.

Martin Luther – There is no more lovely, friendly or charming relationship, communion or company, than a good marriage.

Biblical Leadership for Husbands:

Oswald Sanders – True greatness, true leadership, is achieved not by reducing others to one's service but in giving oneself in selfless service to them.

Strong - Defined: intentional, pure, engaged, addressing issues rather than avoiding them, active, protective, provision

John 10:14

Psalm 112:1-3

I Timothy 5:8

Sacrificial - Defined: Putting other before self, Serving first and getting served second, unconditional love

I Corinthians 13 :4-7

Ephesians 5:28-30

Spiritual - Defined: Regular investments of time into spiritual growth, prayer, active church involvement, modeling godly character,

Deuteronomy 6:7

Ephesians 5:25-27

Servant - Defined: Humble, others-oriented, helping out, not above doing anything,

Mark 10:45

I Peter 5:2-3

John Piper- Leadership has nothing to do with competency here. It is the courage of initiative-taking. Leadership doesn't require that you be smarter or more spiritual than your wife.

Biblical Leadership for Wives

Christopher Ash – “ It may not be the challenges of secular feminism that pose the greatest threat to God’s order of marriage, but pathetic abdications of sinful males who will not take upon ourselves our God-given responsibility to exercise headship in our marriages and in our home.

God calls wives to a unique calling within marriage. While God is shaping their husbands into strong, sacrificial, spiritual, servant leaders within their homes, wives are called to support their husbands in their difficult calling and responsibility. In multiple places throughout the scriptures, God calls godly wives to support their husbands as they seek to become effective servant leaders to their marriages, families and communities.

Support- orderly partner, active participant, encourager, help-meet.

Support does not mean:

- Agreeing on every issue
- Becoming a doormat who is afraid to speak up
- Never addressing problems that exist
- Give your husband everything he wants regardless of wisdom or morality
- Failing to report abuse or ask for help from proper civil and church authorities

How can a wife support her husband? Proverbs 31 describes wisdom by likening it to the wife that would make any man proud and more successful in life. If you embrace the role of supporting your husband, together you will be more successful in life. Look through the following verses to find some ideas about how a successful wife can help her husband fulfill more of his role as servant-leader in the marriage and home.

31:11

31:27

31:12

31:28

31:13-16

31:30

31:20

31:31

31:25

Remember, your goal really is to follow Christ. Your goal is to please and honor him! In doing that, it takes some humility to embrace a role that is supportive of your husband. However, God promises that the unity and peace that results will bring you great joy. Things will work better if you both embrace God’s design.

C.S Lewis “ There must be something unnatural about the rule of wives over husbands, because the wives themselves are half ashamed of it and despise the husbands whom they rule.

Reversing Role Reversal

How should I respond when my husband is not a strong, sacrificial, spiritual servant leader in the home? Do I just have to keep supporting him? What other recourse do I have? Some have wrongly taught that wives should always placate their husbands and should just resign themselves to accept whatever roles he is willing to offer. However, the Bible gives far more instruction to wives than simply accepting unbiblical patterns in the marriage.

1. How can a wife respond when her husband fails to lead?
2. How can a husband lead when his wife fails to follow?
3. How can a couple reverse role reversal?
 - Do the role concept & comparison together to see which areas need to be addressed
 - Wife: What changes God is calling you to make to better your marriage?
 - Husband: What change will you commit to better lead your marriage?