



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING A STRONG FAMILY



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS - PART 3

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR A HUSBAND TO ADDRESS AS THE LEADER OF THEIR HOME?

Malachi 4:6 - "And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

- Your heart must be turned toward your family.
- Do not get lost in the battle.
- Refocus your energy.
- Evaluate your priorities.
- Exercise humility and courage.
- Shepherd your family.

I HAVE A PATTERN OF BEING A PASSIVE FATHER AND HUSBAND. WHAT CAN I DO TO CHANGE?

Questions to ask?

- Are you fearful? Are you influenced by the fear of man?
- Do you not want to rock the boat, and get someone upset at you?

Fear - Faith is the antithesis of fear. Spend time in God's Word and hear from God for yourself.

Ignorance - Some men just do not know what to do? He has never been taught what to do or shown how to do it. Do not let pride get in the way. Spend time talking with fathers and husbands that are good role models.

Insecurity - Address issues in your life that have led to your insecurity.

Uncertainty - Some men do not think they really have anything to offer. Understand God's desire to use your leadership.

WHAT SHOULD WIVES DO WHEN HUSBANDS ARE NOT SHOWING BIBLICAL HEADSHIP?

- Wives must exercise a meek and quiet spirit. They must submit to and respect their husbands. Attitude is very important.
- Controlling the relationship out of fear and anger only causes greater division.
- A wife should pray for her husband.
- A should not seek to change her husband. Agitating, nagging, and controlling only makes husbands more resistant to change.
- The power of influence has much potential (1 Peter 3:1-6).

IS IT WRONG FOR A WIFE TO TAKE UP THE HUSBAND'S NEGLECTED RESPONSIBILITIES, OR DOES THIS ENABLE THE HUSBAND TO CONTINUE IN THAT WRONG BEHAVIOR?

- Wives should not always feel responsible to take up husband's responsibilities. Allowing him to experience the consequences of unfulfilled responsibilities can be a powerful motivation for change.
- Understanding when to take up the neglected responsibilities of the husband, and when to let them go, is a matter wives must have the Holy Spirit's clear direction in on a case by case basis.

SHOULD THE MOTHER LEAD FAMILY WORSHIP IF THE FATHER IS NOT ABLE TO?

- Yes. Even better, a husband should delegate this responsibility to his wife when he cannot carry it out.
- In every case, a wife's attitude of respect, honor, and humility is paramount.

MY SPOUSE DOES NOT WANT TO CHANGE AND IS HAVING A DAMAGING EFFECT ON OUR CHILDREN. WHAT CAN I DO?

- 1 Peter 3:1-6 - *"In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives. Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands. For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do."*

- 1 Corinthians 7: 12-14 - *“Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a Christian man has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. And if a Christian woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him. For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy.”*

MY WIFE AND I DO NOT ENJOY BEING WITH EACH OTHER. WHAT CAN WE DO?

1 John 1:3, 4 - *“That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”*

- **Have you built a wall around your heart?** If yes, than you need to forgive your spouse and let go of the pain that you feel inside. Feeling the pain helps us get in touch with our hearts. I do not believe we can love from our hearts without feeling pain. Pain also helps us get in touch with what really matters to our heart. To love you must allow yourself to be vulnerable to be hurt again.
- **Have you lost that loving feeling?** Loving feelings will come and go. Men lose that loving feeling for their wives because their hearts are focused on someone or something else. Wives lose that loving feeling when their expectations for their husbands are not met and they lose respect for them. Commit yourself to agape love.
- **What you can do to build joy with one another?**
 - Take the focus off of your needs not being met.
 - Take the focus off your physical relationship and enjoy being friends again.
 - Do things together that you enjoy together. What did you do before having children?
 - Smile when you greet your spouse.
 - Give them an “I love you hug” when you greet them and when you leave the house.
 - Pray together everyday as a family.
 - Have one meal together as a family and have family worship after the meal.
 - Be glad to be with your spouse in what they enjoy.
 - Be glad to be with your spouse when they are upset.

HOW CAN A HUSBAND AND WIFE IMPROVE THEIR DECISION MAKING TOGETHER?

Philippians 2:1-4 - *“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

- This process works best when initiated by the husband.
- Define the problem you are trying to solve.
- Allow for each spouse to share their perspectives and opinions. It is important to value each other and carefully listen to one another’s perspectives on the issue. The key to communication is understanding what the person really means by what they say (No assumptions).
 - ❑ **Wife**—her experiences, gifting, wisdom, possible solutions. A husband must value his wife’s need for security. He must try to understand her fears and how that impacts her perspective.
 - ❑ **Husband**—His experiences, gifting, wisdom, possible solutions.
- Do principles of Scripture answer the problem?
- Make it a matter of prayer. What does God want?
- The answer may be something God gives to you together. God may give the wife a caution. God may want the husband to make a decision to build his faith and dependence on God.

