



GRACE LEADERSHIP TRAINING  
Class 17: Godly Husbands

Instructor: Pastor Benjamin

Class Summary: This lesson focuses on the unique and complementary biblical roles and responsibilities for husbands and wives in marriage.

## 1. Introduction / Overview

- A. Our \_\_\_\_\_ for help
- B. The right \_\_\_\_\_ for godly marital relationships
- C. God Has \_\_\_\_\_ to husbands

## 2. Gender and Roles 101

### A. Foundational Principles

- 1. God has spoken about men and women. What He has said is true, good and needed.
- 2. I will accept what God has spoken and allow the truth of Scripture to be my guide, not my life experience.
- 3. I will not allow culture to redefine Scripture. Scripture will trump culture whenever they are at odds.
- 4. I will not try to be God's "PR" department. God can defend His own truth and honor.
- 5. There are believing men and women in both camps who think their positions are biblical and right for God's people. I will respect these individuals but present the truths of Scripture clearly.

#### Summary of Positions

You need to Check these out ...  
<https://cbmw.org/2007/06/26/summaries-of-the-egalitarian-and-complementarian-positions/>

### B. Terms / Positions

### C. The Passages

### D. Questions

#### 1. Roles

Does Scripture teach that men and women fulfill differing roles in relation to each other?

#### 2. Hermeneutics and Presuppositions

How do individuals looking at the same source book (Scripture) arrive at such diverse conclusions?

#### For More Study

Mike Winger's series on "Women in Ministry" is very good.  
<https://biblethinker.org/women-in-ministry/>

### 3. A Starting Place for Husbands

#### 5 Min. Exercise:

##### Characteristics of a godly husband

Jot down everything that comes to mind that should characterize a godly husband.

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## Synthesize

Take the elements above and try to work these into a definition of a godly husband.

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### 4. Leader: A Godly Husband is the Leader of his marriage

#### I. The Husband has God-given Authority

##### A. The Equality and Inequality of the Husband and Wife

1. The two are positionally and personally \_\_\_\_\_ in God's view.
2. The two are \_\_\_\_\_ unequal in God's view.

##### B. The Husband is the Head because this is God's Creation Design

Leadership in Marriage Began in Genesis

“A husband’s higher degree of authority in relation to his wife is pre-fall and part of God’s good design. It should not limit a woman’s ability to subdue the earth and have dominion over it, nor should it be used to invalidate a woman being made in God’s image, but it does inform us about how a husband and wife are to relate to each other with different authority roles. Each having great authority and the highest possible dignity while the husband has leadership within their relationship. Abuses and difficulties post fall don’t invalidate the harmony of Genesis 2.”  
(Mike Winger, Notes, *3-Women-leaders-in-Old-Testament-REVISED*).

#### Characteristics of a Godly Leader

- First a servant (Matthew 23:11)
  - Teachable (Proverbs 19:20)
  - Filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3)
  - Enthusiastic about his role (Ephesians 6:7)
  - A model of humility and forgiveness (1 Peter 5:6; Ephesians 4:32)
  - Loving to those he leads (Matthew 5:46; John 13:34-35)
  - Ready to admit his failures and areas where he needs growth (Philippians 3:12)
- GotQuestions - <https://www.gotquestions.org/godly-husband.html>

C. A Husband is to Lead his wife as Christ Leads the Church

## **II. The Husband is a type of Shepherd-leader**

1. A shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ where he is going - John 6:38
2. A Shepherd knows how to lead \_\_\_\_\_ - Ps. 23:1, 6
3. A Shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ by example - John 10:4a.
4. A Shepherd knows how to \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 Pet. 5:2-3
5. A Shepherd is \_\_\_\_\_ - John 10:14
6. A shepherd is \_\_\_\_\_ in his responsibilities - 1 Pet. 5:2
7. A Shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ - John 10:11-13
8. A shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ - Ps. 23:1
9. A shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ - Ps. 23:1, 3
10. A shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ - Ps. 23:1, 4
11. A shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ to restore his sheep - Ps. 23:1, 3; Gal. 6:1

## **III. The Husband is a Servant-Leader**

A. Christ's model of servant-leadership is in contrast to fleshly leadership

### **Wrong Leadership**

**Stuart Scott, Biblical Manhood, 33**

"Any time a husbands method of leadership helps him to accomplish his own fleshly gain, enables him to lord it over his wife or allows him to be irresponsible, his method of leading is wrong (1 Pet. 5:2-3)."

The Natural Man	The Spiritual Man
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-confident</li> <li>• Knows men</li> <li>• Makes own decisions</li> <li>• Ambitious</li> <li>• Originates own methods</li> <li>• Enjoys commanding others</li> <li>• Motivated by personal considerations</li> <li>• Independent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confident in God</li> <li>• Knows God</li> <li>• Seeks to find God's will</li> <li>• Self-effacing (to erase self or make self inconspicuous)</li> <li>• Finds and follows God's methods</li> <li>• Delights to obey God</li> <li>• Motivated by love for God and man</li> <li>• God-dependent</li> </ul>

B. Servant-leadership seeks to serve, not be served.

Matt. 20:26-28

John 13:1-15

C. Servant leadership gives of oneself, even unto death.

Philippians 2:5-8

D. Servant leadership does not lord it over others, but seeks to work with them

Mark 3:14; 4:10; 6:1

## 5. A Godly Husband's Role: Love His Wife

A. The Call: Husbands Love Your Wife

B. The Primary Texts

Ephesians 5:25-30

Colossians 3:19

C. A Definition

D. The Display of Love: Love in Action

1. Actively

2. Knowledgeably

3. Sacrificially

### The Manifestation of Love Dr. Nicholas Ellen

"Manifestation [of love] — considering her interest, concerns, needs, desires, and making sure they are taken care of in the way that Christ would do it for the Church; relating with her socially, spiritually, emotionally, and sexually in a manner that benefits her and reflects the character of Christ; compensating for her weaknesses in ways that Christ would do it for the Church; leading and guiding her into spiritual maturity, helping her to be all of what God designed her to be in the way that Christ would do it for the Church; leading your wife as Christ would lead the Church in all aspects of the marriage (1 Peter 3:7, 1 Cor. 7:33)."

(Dr. Nicholas Ellen - The Role of the Husband - unpublished conference notes, 2019).

4. Relationally
5. Vocally
6. Holistically
7. Comprehensively

### **Questions for a Husband to Consider<sup>1</sup>**

1. Does your schedule indicate that your family is a top priority in time, energy, and focus?
2. Are you heeding the counsel of 1 Peter 3:7 and really studying your wife?
3. Are you taking the initiative to lead your wife spiritually by sharing the things God is teaching you?
4. Are you sensitive to your wife's physical state and sexual needs? They will be different from yours, and a godly husband respects that without pouting or trying to "punish" her.
5. Are you accepting equal responsibility for the children (if you have any currently)? Even if your wife is better at some aspects of parenting, your children are your responsibility. Your wife needs a partner who willingly shares the load with her.
6. Examine your tone of voice. Have you fallen into a habit of harshness, blame, or subtle disapproval?
7. Do you ever resort to physical or verbal abuse in any form? If you need anger management help, get it.
8. In areas where your wife is weak, are you helping her to grow rather than criticizing or shutting down?
9. Are you a good listener? Wives need to share their hearts, and you must be the safest place for her to do that.
10. Are you the guardian of her heart, dreams, and self-worth? You cannot be God to her, but you can encourage her to connect with God in such a way that her deepest emotional needs are met in Him.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/godly-husband.html>

## 6. A Godly Husband Learns

- A. A godly husband lives with his wife in an understanding way
- B. A godly husband honors his wife
- C. A Godly husband prioritizes and pursues knowing his wife
  - 1. Live according to knowledge. How?
    - Observation
    - Notation
    - Prioritization
    - Communication
- D. A godly husband works at good, loving communication

### Take It Home:

Look through the questions below. How might you utilize these with your wife to show her honor, deepen your oneness and understanding of her, and develop better communication? Take a minute and jot down your reflections and action plan.

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1. What could I do to make you feel more understood?
2. What could I do to make you feel more loved?
3. What could I do to make you feel more respected?
4. What could I do to make you feel more understood?
5. What could I do to make you more secure?
6. What could I do to make you feel more confident in our future direction?
7. What attribute would you like me to develop?
8. What attribute would you like me to help you develop?
9. What achievement in my life would bring you the greatest joy?
10. What would indicate to you that I really desire to be more Christlike?
11. What mutual goal would you like to see us accomplish? <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Dennis Rainey, *Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood*. Little Rock: FamilyLife Publishing, 2011. 107.

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## Resources for Further Study

CBEinternational.org

- The major egalitarian/evangelical feminism organization
- A PDF of their statement of position can be downloaded.

CBMW.org

- Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, which is the major complementarian organization. I highly recommend downloading the following resources.

### *Danvers Statement*

- The Danvers Statement summarizes the need for the CBMW and serves as an overview of their core beliefs.

### *Nashville Statement*

- Biblically oriented Statements on Gender, Marriage, Sexuality (from a complementation viewpoint).

### *Summaries of egalitarian and complementarian positions*

- Very good summaries of positions. You should have a copy of these in your file.
- <https://cbmw.org/2007/06/26/summaries-of-the-egalitarian-and-complementarian-positions/>

Mike Winger's series on women in ministry. It is available on his YouTube channel.

- <https://biblethinker.org/women-in-ministry/>