

## **Biblical Authority in the Home**

### Ontario couples' seminar #2

In fulfilling these obligations of authority over our children, the husband/father is the head. However, he will be greatly handicapped if his wife does not help him. Also, the wife will be terribly frustrated if the husband/father does not lead out. Through much communication, they should be a harmonious team, with Dad leading out and Mom right beside him to help him.

#### **Unity is SO, SO important!**

#### I. The purpose of authority

- A. Lead/Direct – Pro.6:20-23 - Includes setting goals/direction/inspiring vision
  - Establish order by organizing resources (people & things) to accomplish the goals/visions
- B. Protect – Pro.2:1-2, 12, 16 - Includes punishing lawbreakers to reprove them, to protect the innocent, and to fulfill the purpose of the entity (by preventing chaos and anarchy).
  - Includes setting and guarding boundaries to avoid confusion of authority in the entity, and to protect those who are inside from what is outside.

#### II. God's arrangement of authority for the home

- Gen.2:18 – Woman was created to be man's suitable helper
- I Cor.11:3 – God, Christ, man, woman
- Eph.5:22-23; 6:1 – Husband is head over wife, children are to obey parents

Not a 50-50 arrangement (Gal.3:28 is in the context of salvation, not home or church authority)

#### III. God created men to be the authority (but not the dictator) in their homes

- A. Spiritual authority comes by being under authority – Matt.8:8-9
  - Humility – the key to true greatness Jam.4:6-10
- B. Lead by example, not by empty commandments – I Cor.11:1
  - 1. Disciple your wife and especially your children. Personal disciplines – food, sleep, use of free time, prayer, Bible reading, etc. Consistency is so important!!

2. Direct - Have clear lines – require prompt obedience, kindness, zero backtalk/rebellion, zero lies, etc.
3. Be faithful (keep promises) & true. This is essential to establish trust in your leadership/authority
  - \*Bishop and his wayward sons
4. Be unselfishness
  - \*As Christ toward His Bride the church
5. Lead in consultation with your God-given helper
  - \*Abraham and Sarah

C. Protect your family

You are responsible to protect your wife and children spiritually/emotionally/physically. This is primarily Dad's responsibility, though Mom needs to help. The greatest dangers facing homes today are worldly influences from TV, videos, smart phones (social media), friends, and outside-the-home activities. Know where your children are and who they are with. Make home a fun place to be (educational books, good story books of Christian heroes, profitable games, etc.) As much as possible, do things together as a family. In the evenings, read an exciting book to your family, watch an educational video and discuss it, or play a game together. Make a snack and have a weekly family evening.

IV. God created wives to be their husbands' joyful helpers

- A. Submitting to my husband is my response in accepting God's perfect order
- B. It is important to model submission before our children

**Questions:**

1. For husband – Am I fulfilling my role as the godly authority in my home, leading my wife and children with humility and honesty? Does my wife feel that I am fulfilling my role?
2. For wife – Am I fulfilling my role as my husband's helper and encourager? Does my husband feel that I am fulfilling my role as his joyful helper?
3. Are we as a couple unified in guiding and protecting our children? Do we communicate well and work toward oneness of mind?
4. Ponder the past 20 years, and observe what affect the advent of internet has had on homes in our society. Are you as parents unified in protecting your home from the assault from the Devil and the world via the internet?