**Marriage Enrichment Session Five**

**His Role vs. Her Role in Marriage (1)**

**The Role of the Husband**

Introduction:

A. What is more important: *the axle or wheel-bearing?*

1. The point of the question is not the *answer* but the *relationship*

2. In marriage *functioning roles* define the joy of the relationship

B. Ephesians 5:22-33

1. God’s directions are *built* on his needs vs. her needs

2. God sets out *directions in view of these primary needs*

3. The *argument* about whose position is *more important* is as

pointless as *What is more important: the axle or wheel-bearing?*

**I. What is the husband’s role within the marriage?**

A. The Challenging Part: ***Be her learner***(1 Peter. 3:7)

*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge,*

*giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, as and being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered.*

1. God commands to dwell with her with *knowledge*

2. God didn’t tell us to *change* herbut *understand* her

3. God wants us to treat her as *the weaker vessel*

4. God calls us to *give her honor*

a. How does God want us to show her honor?

● your *soft touch*

● your *gentle words*

● your *first love*

● your *wise investment*

5. God calls us to *maintain channels of spiritual communication*

B. The Sacrificial Part: ***Be Her Lover***(Eph. 5:25, 28-29, 33)

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church,*

*and gave Himself for it.*

1. Our culture has *degraded* love to lust – feelings – passions

2. Greek has 4 words for love

a. erao*:* to love sexually, sensually, passionately

● never used in Bible

b. Stergo: *to love w/ natural affection – child’s love*

● 2 Tim. 3:3; Rom. 1:31

c. Phileo: to love emotionally, friendship love

● John 11:36 - John 20:15ff

d. Agapao: to love deeply – as God loves

● Eph. 5:25, 28

3. What is *agapao* love?

a. Agapao is *seated in will and not in emotions*

b. Agapao *sacrifices – gives up – non-selfish*

4. Now the details: *What does this love really looks like?*

a. It is love like Christ did **do** (Eph. 5:26-27)

● His love wasn’t *whispering words’*

● His love was *deeds done*

b. It is love also were *well spoken words* (Eph. 5:26)

c. It is love like I bestow on my own body (vs. 28)

● nourish: *to feed – strengthen - physically*

● cherish: *to warm – cuddle – focus on emotional needs*

d. It is love *seeks to satisfy all the needs of my wife*

● seven needs: physical – emotional – intellectual – social –

recreational – sexual – spiritual

● each of these *calls for* ***nourishing and cherishing***

e. It is love that *protects her from over-stretch*

f. It is love that *assists* her in all family responsibilities

g. It is love that *sacrifices your own agenda (hobby, promotion,*

*desire for rest)*

h. It is love that *includes her in all your life*

C. The Exciting Part: ***To be her Leader***

- *For the husband is the head of the wife.*  Eph. 5:23

*- But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ;*

*and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.*

- *Princes of Gentiles exercise dominion over them (…) but it shall not*

*be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (…) Even as the Son of man cam not to be ministered unto but to minister* (Eph. 5:23; 1 Cor. 11:3; Matthew 20:25-28)

1. God assigned us as husband the *head-position*

a. implies *union: we have become ‘one’*

b. implies *authority:* God-given position of power

c. implies *responsibility:* we are to lead

2. What is the *responsibility* of the leader in marriage?

a. as leader *you are responsible to care for your wife/family*

b. as leader *you are to set goals – lead in decisions – solve*

*problems – overcome challenges*

● good leaders are *initiators – managers – unifiers*

● good leaders are *not dictators – imposers – know-it-all*

3. The definition of the leader in *picture: Biblical shepherd*

**Home-Construction Assignments**

1. Husband: List five ways in which you like to show honor to

your wife. Share with her the five ways to verify she experiences your five ways as honorable.

2. Husband: Reflect on the three L’s for husband: *Learner – Lover –*

*Leader*. Evaluate yourself to determine which of the three is weakest and strongest in you. Share your thoughts with your wife and develop a plan how to strengthen all three.

3. Colossians 3:19 speaks, *“Husbands, love your wives, and be*

*not bitter against them.*” Obviously, husbands can become bitter and God warns about the root of bitterness (Heb. 12:15). Evaluate and discuss if you sense bitterness towards your wife. What causes this feeling of bitterness which often is expressed in resentment, impatience, anger, evil thoughts, neglect, distance or domestic violence?

4. Are you loving your wife the way she wants to be loved or are you

only loving her the way you want to love her? In other words, miscommunication of love occurs when you are not on her frequency.

Google the question *Specific Ways to Demonstrate Love to Your Wife* and find the list of 100 questions by Wayne Mack. Mark each for a starter and share your answers with your wife to check whether she appreciates your choices! Don’t forget to do them!

5. In 2 Tim. 2:24-25 God gives instructions to church leaders but much of

this is applicable to domestic leaders as well, *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.”*  So, if pastors and elders are to use gentleness when to instruct their people, how much more must husbands (and fathers) use gentleness when dealing with their spouses? Opposition in church requires meekness, then opposition in the family requires also meekness. Talk together about a strategy how deal with corrections (both ways) that may need to be given to each other. What are the Biblical and practical rules you must agree to follow?

6. As husband we need to be our wife’s student so that we can dwell with

her with understanding. Lou Priolo in *The Complete Husband* provides some guidelines for asking questions of your wife to get to know her better. As he wrote, *“Questions are to communication as food is to eating”* then it is important to know how or what to ask. He offers the following guidelines (adapted),

a. Avoid asking ‘why’ questions. Questions that begin with *what* or

*how* are much effective for securing facts, thoughts and motives. *Why* questions tend to go into justification.

b. Learn to create new questions which flows out of your wife’s

answers. Suppose you asked your wife’s opinion about buying x-thing. Her answers may be, “It doesn’t really matter because, based on the past, you aren’t likely to consider my opinion.” How do you respond to this? Defensive? Cutting? Or, “Sweetheart, what have I done that leads you to believe I would not consider your opinion? I am not aware of that so can you help me to see where you’re coming from?”

c. Be careful not to interrupt her before she’s finished answering.

d. Avoid the “Yes” or “No” type questions.

e. Be a learner and a servant. So, let the tone be gentle, respectful,

like a physician helping a patient. Take the position of a real student eager to learn.

Good book suggestion: *The Complete Husband* by Lou Priolo