

Lest We Drift Away The Role Of A Godly Man

by Hendrik Joubert

A lady who served as an elder in a Denomination defended her position by saying that the men are weak and failed to lead. She added that she considered Paul a bit of a chauvinist. Two things demonstrating disrespect need to be addressed. First of all, men need to take up their God given responsibility to lead. Often one would hear that it is not in someone's personality to do this or that. Obedience to God is not optional – I will do it if it happens to be part of my personality. Obedience involves being ***transformed by the renewing of your mind.*** (Romans 12:2)

Then there is the lack of respect for the Scriptures. It is easy to accept those passages we happen to be in agreement with; however when we find those we have a problem with for some reason or another, we will work on an *interpretation*. This may involve the laws of hermeneutics and Greek lexicons, or just considering what Paul wrote as his personal view, and not the inspired Word of God. Peter informs us that Paul wrote all his letters ***with the wisdom given him (by inspiration of God)***, and that his words are being twisted by some, ***as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*** (2Peter 3:15-16) When he says that there ***are some things hard to understand***, we think **intellect** instead of calling for a renewal of our minds – *repentance*.

Paul writes that that the woman is not permitted to have *authority* over a man, but to be in *silence*, and gives the first reason as: ***For Adam was formed first, then Eve.*** (1Timothy 2:13) When the decision was made to make man in God's own image, it was to let them have dominion over His creation. (Genesis 1:26) God decided it was not good for man to be alone, but to ***make him a helper comparable to him.*** (Genesis 2:18) The foundation of man's authority over a woman therefore goes back to before the woman's transgression, which is added: ***And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*** (1Timothy 2:14)

Due to societal pressure there are so many emotional arguments made to reduce the authority of the man over the woman, such as the story of her being made from the rib, the side of his body and not his foot so she is not to be trampled upon... Abuse is not an expression of godly authority, and it seems that some men have to abuse their wives physically or mentally in order to prove to *themselves* that they are in control. The command is for the husband to ***love his own wife as he loves himself.*** (Ephesians 5:33)

A true incident related to me involved a young man and his wife who decided to go their separate ways, and were asked by the preacher "Why?" The young man's reply was that he just does not love her anymore... The preacher asked: *When are you going to repent?* Do you notice the simplicity of the instruction exposed by this question? The

command is to **love his own wife as he loves himself**, this woman he once loved enough to marry. It is not an option based upon his current superficial feelings.

There are four words (some identify even more) for love in the Greek language, one of which is not used in the Scriptures, and I want to suggest that it is because of its apparent shallowness. It perfectly describes the *love* proclaimed in the world today. The word is *eros*, and its presence in the word *erotic* is obvious. There is no such love, a love which may be described as an infatuation almost exclusively as a result of the looks of the other person, commanded in the Scriptures. Think for a moment of the way in which males and females are generally described as babes and hunks, and how *love* is widely used for what amounts to fornication, adultery and homosexuality.

The love the husband is to have for his wife is described by the same term as the love God has for us, or the love Christ has for the church. It is the type of love where one would consider the interests of others as more important than your own, so that nothing is **done through selfish ambition**. (Philippians 2:3-4) Therefore the instruction: **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,...** (Ephesians 5:25)

The submissiveness of the wife is not subject to her husband's love; however it makes her obedience less of an effort if her husband loves her and **dwells with her with understanding**. (1Peter 3:7) The reverse is just as true. When the husband and wife live as God has directed without *rebellion*, the relationship is a blessing as the verse continues: **and as being heirs together of the grace of life**. Some end up living together without obedience to these commandments, believing that the mutual agreement absolves them from the responsibility to do so. The verse concludes with the following caution: **that your prayers may not be hindered**.

The husband is commanded to love his wife in the same way Christ loved the church, and he must fulfill his role as the leader as he submits to His head, which is Christ. (1Corinthians 11:3) Witnessing his unfeigned obedience to Christ becomes an example to emulate.