

MAN IN THE MIRROR BIBLE STUDY
The Husband in the Mirror - The Role of the Husband
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Good morning, men. We are doing a series called "The Husband in the Mirror". This is the third week of the series. The overarching big idea for the whole series is: "After God but before all others I will make my wife my top priority. And then we are kind of flushing that thing out throughout this whole series. I want to announce that I am wearing a costume this morning which will be part of an illustration later. I'm mentioning that now because this is a Bible Study, we do have a good time here, but it is a Bible Study, we are going to be looking at God's Holy word, and I don't want to have the costume be a mockery. This is a Ferrari shirt and a Harley Davidson belt buckle, so go ahead and look at it and get it out of your system. Whoever said "ooooooo" probably rides a Suzuki!

Okay, here's what we are going to talk about this morning. We talked about what makes your wife tick, right? Last week what did we talk about? We talked about the seasons of marriage. Today I want us to talk about responsibilities and the role of the husband. What is the role of a husband, and if you like, the biblical role of a husband. I would like to dedicate this to my son Jon who was just married in June, and to my new son-in-law, Jay, who tomorrow will be married to my daughter. This is a message about your duty as a husband. And there are many responsibilities that come with being a husband. This is half funny, but half true, too. John, Jay, there are four things that you need to know in your role as a husband that will really get you over well. There are four things that you say to your wife often and at appropriate and even inappropriate times. And those four statements are, what? "Yes, Dear", "I'm wrong", "I'm sorry", and "It's my fault". If you repeat these four over and over again you'll find that your biblical role as a husband should go a lot smoother if you use those four. Back to the text at hand: Here's the big idea this morning: I'd encourage you to write it down on the back of the questions we are going to begin each week printing a listener's outline, and so you can follow on that if you want to. Today: My highest duty is to love my wife as a prophet, priest and king. And so this morning, we will look at the principle command in scripture given to husbands. We will look at what it means to love our lives as a prophet, as a priest, and as king. That's the outline of where we are going to be going this morning.

My highest duty is to love my wife as a prophet, priest, and king. Is it true? What does it mean? And how can it help us? Ephesians 5:21: "Husbands, love your work, just as Christ loved his work". "Husbands, love your children just as Christ loved his children." "Husbands, love your parents, just as Christ loved his parents." When we make the statement, "my highest duty" I would like to suggest to you that that is something you can prove analytically by just doing some comparative study like we just did there. Okay, to the text. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing of water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain, or wrinkle, or any blemish, but holy and blameless he brings the church to maturity. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds it and cares for it, just as Christ does the church, for we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two become one flesh. This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. May God superintend the meaning of this passage for his glory and our benefit, right? Okay, this is the principle command given to husbands in scripture. And what this command does is bring marriage into the realm of morals. It's a duty, it's an obligation – a failure to do this is actually a moral failure. That is, to love your wives as Christ loves the church. So now, if a husband is going to love his wife as Christ loves the church... Well, the word "as" could be translated as "equal to", "in the same way" – you could actually put an equal sign in there. Husbands love your wives equal to the way Christ loves the church. That's the way you could properly interpret this. There's to be a one to one correlation.

So, if you as a husband want to know how to love your wife as Christ loves the church, then we need to know how Christ loves the church. And so the first thing we need to look at is the word Christ, because that's who we are to imitate, right? And so, Christ is like the last name of Jesus. This is Jim Siebert, that's Dan Long, that's Rick Hornbeck, and he's Jesus Christ. And so Christ is like the last name of Jesus, yes?

No! Christ is a title of Jesus. Jesus had many titles and the titles that are given to Jesus have import, and they have specificity, and they have distinct meaning. And so the term Christ has a very specific meaning in scripture. The word means what? Anointed one – the word Christ literally means “anointed one”. The parallel to the term Christ is what? Messiah! Messiah and Christ mean the same thing. Now, in the Old Testament there were many kinds of messiahs, many kinds of anointed ones. Moses was an anointed one, he was a prophet. Melchizedek was an anointed one. He was a priest. David was an anointed one. He was a king. And, so in theology, there is a classic threefold office that is attributed to Jesus in his role as Christ. And that classic threefold office is that Jesus

Christ in his role is what? Prophet, Priest and King – okay, yes? So, husbands, love your wives equal to the way that a prophet, priest and king, loves his family – us. You know, you don’t have many original insights, if you think you are having a lot of original insights, you are probably wrong. But anyway, I believe that this is the number one insight that the Lord has ever given me into the scriptures besides the idea of understanding the threefold office of Christ, focusing in on this, and so we are going to unpack this here a little bit.

I taught this same material in 1993 – How many of you were here for that series? A few of you were. I did this back then, didn’t I? I know we use it in our seminars, now. So, here’s the internal logic – God anointed Jesus to be the head of the church. Jesus loves the church. Jesus provides for the church as her prophet, priest and king. God anoints us as the head of our wives. The way you love your wife is to provide for her as her prophet, priest and king. And so, what’s the role of a husband? It’s pretty simple – just look it up – the way that Jesus treats the church, and imitate that with your wife, okay? Jesus said, “I am among you as one who serves”. Let’s look at the role of Jesus as prophet. What does it mean that Jesus was a prophet? And then of course, what does it mean to us? Just listen – at the inauguration of his ministry, Jesus said this – the spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to the prophetic office to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. At the center of the ministry of Jesus is the proclamation of the Gospel. Nothing in Jesus ministry works is successful, apart from, an effective proclamation of the Gospel. And so, you are the family prophet, and as such, you have been anointed, you have been ordained, to be the proclaimer of the Gospel of grace to your wife, and by extension to your family, as well. This is a holy responsibility – to make sure that your wife understands the word of Jesus and the Gospel.

When my daughter gets married tomorrow, I will be off the hook in one way. I mentioned in our spiritual discipline series that I fast one day a week. Well, for the last four or five years that has been for my daughter, because four or five years ago we were driving home, I remember right where we were – we were stuck on the bridge at 436 trying to get on I-4, and so I asked Jen, okay, I told her what I was going to do, that I was going to begin praying and fasting for her one day a week, for the husband that we had been praying for all of her life plus seven months. No, all of her life, as soon as we learned that she was in the womb for seven months before she was actually born, we had been praying literally every day that she would find a man with a clean heart. We’ve been praying for that young man.

His name now, we know, happens to be Jay Simmons, and so when he entered into middle school on his first day and was afraid that he was going to get beat up by bullies, we prayed for him that morning! And so, when he got thrown out at home plate and was humiliated because he tried to run to many bases, on that morning, my wife and I prayed that God would sustain him. And so, then, when he was bouncing around and didn’t know who he was, on that day, on that morning, on each of those mornings when he got up and he didn’t know who he was or where he was going, or what his life was about, we were praying that God would intervene in his life. And on that day, when he was out at a men’s retreat in California, and he heard and understood the Gospel, and repented with tears, that morning, when we got up, we prayed that God would be his God. And so we have a huge investment in this guy, but four or five years ago, I’m thinking, my daughter’s discouraged because all of her buds are getting married, but she’s got kind of these high standard things, and so I said, well, Jen, what are the issues? What are the standards? And so I wrote them down on a three by five card – I’ve got a photocopy of the card here.

These are the things she wants: I want a guy who’s passionate. I want a guy who’s laid-back. I want a guy with humor, who’s fun-loving, and treats all people well. I’m thinking, sure, no problem; I know all kinds

of guys like that, Jen. And then she put this: Inspires Jen to love God more, and inspires me to holiness. That's what it means to be a prophet to your wife. That you would bring Christ into your marriage, and that you would bring a Christian worldview into every situation. So, you are watching a TV program, that you as the spiritual leader – you would be drawing connections to how this works and doesn't work in a biblical Christian world view. You're the one who has the responsibility to make sure that your family is in church. If your family is not in church, is it your wife's fault? Is it your children's fault? Is it that barking neighbor's dog last night that kept you up? No! It falls to you. If your family doesn't do devotions, who owns that? If your family doesn't pray before its meals, consistently, modeling that. Who owns that? My highest duty is to love my wife as a prophet.

Second is the role of priest. What does it mean that Jesus was a priest? Turn with me to Hebrews 7:25, and what we are going to see here is that Jesus consecrated himself for his church – a commitment to personal holiness. And secondly, he intercedes for the church, and then third, we'll see that he made a sacrifice. Hebrews 7:25 – “Therefore Jesus is able to save completely those who come to him because he always lives to intercede for them”. Such a high priest meets our need – One who is Holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens (there's the consecration). Unlike other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of all people. He sacrificed for the sins once for all when he offered himself. So, what it means to be a priest is to intercede, to consecrate and to sacrifice. And so, one of the greatest deposits, after God, and before all others, that you can make into your wife's personal bank accounts, is emotional fidelity. Fidelity!

A friend and I went to the formula one race in Indianapolis this year, and I'm a Michael Schumacker fan and so I wore this Ferrari shirt. In fact, I wore this exact outfit: These jeans, this shirt, this Harley Davidson belt buckle. I would never wear these things, ordinarily speaking, because it distracts from the message, but now I'm going to make it part of the message. We are checking in at the hotel, and it takes a very long time, the computers are shut down or something, so we are standing there like forty-five minutes. While we are standing there, a group of people come up to the counter to check in. One of the people in this group is a very vivacious, very attractive, young thirty something girl, woman – pretty, not particularly sensuous, but feminine, and happy. And so, I talk to everybody, and so I'm talking to her. And we get into this big conversation because she's a Michael Schumacher fan, too. We're talking about his chances of winning the race.

Well, while I was looking on the internet getting ready for my trip, I found a sheet that gave the bookmaker's odds for Schumacher to win. It was like, seventy-five to one that he would win. So, I was showing her this, and so forth, and she was very interested, and now she was standing next to me. And you know how sometimes comprehension lags the actual development of circumstances? Well, I am a little unaware of what's going on here. Now she has her arm just sort of touching against my arm on the counter of the thing. And she's kind of laughing and shaking her head so that her hair is brushing against my shoulder, and so all of a sudden it dawns on me, she's not with a group. She's by herself. Now, I've discovered she's from a small town in Wisconsin, and slowly the realization came upon me... This girl is by herself, and she is from a little town in Wisconsin, and she's come to Indianapolis to look for a good time. And I'm wearing this shirt, and these jeans, and this belt buckle, and I have grey hair, and she hadn't hooked up yet, and she's thinking I'm her good time. Now, I could be wrong. (Laughter) But it would damage my ego too much to admit it! And then I laid on her one of the classic all-time lines in the world. I said, “You're from Oregon?” I said, “I think our ministry has done a number of seminars in churches in your area.” You should have seen the look on her face. Well, first of all, she was pretty sure at that time that I was not the guy she was going to be with for the weekend. But she stumbled around, she says, “Oh, you know, I think I might of heard of that ministry. I don't really remember that ministry being in our churches in our little city.” And she just backed off, and we went our separate ways.

John, Jay, it would be a very good goal to be able to say after thirty years of marriage – to be able to look your wife in the eye and say, you know, I've never acted in an inappropriate way toward another woman. That would be a very good goal. Yes? Fidelity – a tremendous deposit into your wife's emotional bank account. Chesterton in his book Orthodoxy, says, “Keeping to one woman is a small price to pay for so much as seeing one woman”. Keeping to one woman is a small price to pay for the privilege of seeing the

great creature that God has given in a woman. He goes on, and makes some very interesting points. Fidelity – tremendous deposit. My highest duty is to love my wife as a prophet and a priest.

And then third, let's look at the idea of King. Wow, I've always wanted to be a King! What it doesn't mean: Montesquieu, in his book, The Spirit of the Laws, identified three forms of government: Dictatorship, Democracy, Monarchy. And so, we have to understand what kind of government, what kind of a king we are supposed to be. Obviously, it's not a Dictatorship. He also said that there are indispensable ingredients to maintain these three forms of government. What would you guess would be the indispensable ingredient to maintain a dictatorship? Fear – yes – that's what he wrote – fear. What would be the indispensable ingredient to maintain a democracy? Montesquieu says civic virtue. And to maintain a Monarchy, he says, honor. So if you think about the Brits, and the honor, there has been a lot that's been written in addition to that. Here is what it doesn't mean: To be a king is to be a Dictator. What it does mean: To be a Davidic king. A King in the line of David, as Jesus is a Davidic king. We inherit a piece of that mantle: we are to be a king that brings peace to our land, to our people. A king that brings prosperity to our people, that lead a life of righteousness. Basically, to be a king means to lead, protect and provide. And so, in John 18, Pilate brings Jesus in front of them, he says, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said, "Is that your own idea, or did someone tell you about me?" He says, "Do you think I'm a Jew? Tell me what you've done!" And Jesus replies, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." Pilate said, "You are a king then!" Jesus replied, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason, I was born."

Husbands love your wives equal to the way that Christ the king loved the church: "I came as one who serves". My next door neighbor travels from time to time, and I always know when he is traveling. Do you want to know how I know he's traveling? Because when he travels, all of the floodlights are on when he's out of town. And what a man represents to his wife is captured in that little picture. One of the things a man represents to his wife is security. That's what it means. Give your wife security. Here's a great deposit that you can make into your wife's emotional bank account: settle down. Go ahead and settle. Quit roaming around. Settle down! Provide! Let there be peace in the land. Quit kicking against the goads. Quit railing against all the injustices of your life. Get over it, settle down, and be a good king: lead, protect and provide. A man I work with was telling me recently that he and his wife were talking one night for four hours. And she said, "You know, the problem that I have is that you have itchy feet. And what that means to me is that I never feel settled. And so I make blueberry muffins, but it's never part of our home – it's never a homey thing." Part of what it means to be a husband who truly loves his wife is to create an environment where making blueberry muffins is a homey thing.

My highest duty is to love my wife as a prophet, priest, and king.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, thank you so much for your word, and for how it burns in our hearts. I pray that your word would superintend, and show us the truth. Lord, please strike any error from this message, but I pray that you would burn the truth in our minds. Lord, for the young men who are recently married or not yet married, I pray that you would give them a strong commitment to fidelity. Lord there are men here who no doubt are in pain just at the thought of that because they can't say that, so I pray that you would help them to understand that you are a gracious forgiver, and that you would lead them through repentance, and that you would also lead them to the pledge of a clean conscience – a consecration, a sacrifice for the rest of their marriage. Father, for all the other things you want to do in Men's hearts this morning, I pray that you would speak so loudly that they would not rest until they take action. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.