

Male Spiritual Leadership

Scripture: Hebrews 13:4 *“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”*

Introduction:

I'm a 68 model so I grew up in the 1970's. There was one thing that really scared me when I was young. The (ERA) woman's equal rights amendment. As a child I didn't understand all that was going on with the (ERA) but through my little eyes I simply saw a bunch of angry women trying to rise up and take over the world.

Looking back now through adult eyes, I think some of their complaint was well deserved in that these women, in many ways, were made to feel oppressed and somehow second class.

Our family had saw the ERA as an affront on Christianity. Aimed right at destroying the fundamentals of godliness, but now I think it was more like the top of a pressure cooker letting off steam.

It is my proposition that woman never wanted to take over the world, they just wanted men to be real men. Something lacking back then and even today.

Today I want to talk with you about male spiritual leadership.

Most of the organization of the material today can be found in F. Laggard Smith's book called "Male Spiritual Leadership". Laggard is a member of the Lord's church and does a great job in a comprehensive study of this topic from the scriptures.

Let's start with reading 1 Timothy 2:8-12

8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, 10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. 11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. 12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

Here God is saying, look there are things I want men to do and be about and things that I want woman to do and be about.

-But why the difference?

-Let's read Verses 13-14

13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. 14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

-Adam was created first

-Eve was deceived

How does this play a part in the roles of men and woman?

Well Paul directs us back to the beginning so let's go back to Genesis chapter 1

Lesson:

I. Men and woman are equal but different.

A. Genesis 1:27 *"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*

1. The word "*man*" here is the word human being or mankind

a. So both the man and the woman are equally created in the image of God.

2. Man is not superior to woman

B. Men and woman are different

1. Physically

2. Emotionally

C. But, here is an important concept

1. Equal, but different.

II. In Genesis chapter 2 we find the establishment of Male Spiritual Leadership

A. MSL was given to Adam because he was created first.

1. Why? 1 Timothy 2 suggests there is a reason

2. In the Old Testament the 1st born male children were the ones that became consecrated to the Lord and heads or leaders of families...Numbers 3:44-51

3. We can even see this tied to the 1st born Christ in Col. 1 as the (Head of the Church)

B. MSL came with authority.

1. God gave Adam the task of naming the animals

a. There is a biblical principle that to name is to have authority over

b. And here in the beginning it is Adam that names Eve

2. You see, God through out scripture makes it quite clear that it is man that is to have authority in the family....

a. Numbers 5:29 (NASB) and Eph 5:23 make it very clear.

3. But Eve was Adam's missing part, a fulfillment of what was missing within himself.

a. And she was beautifulI saw the pictures ☺

C. Here, in the beginning, Eve is called a "*helpmeet*"

1. The thought can be degrading

2. It sounds secondary in nature.

a. Have you ever heard a man say "*she's my little helper*"?

3. But helper is not secondary at all

a. When we remember that God is said to be our helper...Psalms 54:4

4. "*Helpmeet*" means counterpart / or mate

a. It doesn't mean:

-Full time maid

-Jingle your glass

-That's not equal....that is a master slave relationship.

III. In Genesis chapter 3 we find the first breach of Male Spiritual Leadership

A. Sin enters the world.

1. Eve was tempted, she sinned and ruined it for all of us right?

a. You men are loving this...I can see it on your face.

-But your wrong!

B. Here we gain some real insight to MSL

1. 1 Timothy 2:14 says that Eve was deceived

a. That is, Satan played on her lack of understanding

2. You see God had given the command "not to eat" to Adam...Gen 2:15-16

a. It was Adam's responsibility to instruct his wife about this matter.

b. And apparently he did a lousy job of it !

3. And not only did Adam fail to instruct Eve properly about this matter, but stood there and watched her violate God's command and never uttered a word.
4. It is interesting how men will place themselves in harms way to help their wives when grizzly bears are concerned....but become utter cowards about spiritual matters.

C. You see the 1st sin was a breach of MSL

1. The fact is that sin entered the world through Adam...not Eve.

a. Romans 5:12 *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned"*

D. Most sin and corruption in this world is because of men...not woman.

1. Woman don't fill up most of our prisons, it is men.

IV. Then we skip over to God's covenant with Abraham

A. The sign of Covenant with God was circumcision

1. On males

B. Have you ever looked at the Law of Moses?

1. Chauvinistic to the core

a. Women valued at ½ when talking about vows

b. Women ceremonially unclean after childbirth

-But twice as long if a girl

C. The leaders of Israel were:

1. Day after day
2. Week after week
3. Month after month
4. Year after year

* Without exception always male.

D. Why?.....Because God so ordered it.

1. MSL was His plan

V. Oh, but what about Deborah in the book of Judges? Chapter 4-5

A. First of all a prophet or prophetess never took the leadership role in worship

1. God speaks through who or what ever He chooses.

- a. A bush
- b. A donkey
- c. Etc.

B. Deborah was a judge

- 1. A military leader
- 2. And a regular judge

C. Then it came time for Israel to go to war.

- 1. Barak, her general, came to her and says you'll have to lead us.
- 2. Deborah says:
 - a. If I lead you the honor will go to a woman
 - b. She is not being arrogant here
 - c. She is saying it's horrible when the men won't fight unless they can hide behind the skirt of a woman.

D. Woman are not to be honored for battle.

- 1. God gave woman to be nurturers and sustainers.

E. Judges chapter 5 is a wonderful passage

- 1. It is a song of celebration
 - a. Judges 5:2 "*when the princess of Israel take the lead praise the Lord*"
 - b. Verse 6-7 says when the men don't lead....the mothers had to take care of it.
 - c. Verse 8 goes on to say that no sword was found in Israel.

-Only wimpy AWOL MSL's

F. The story of Deborah is not a call for wider roles for woman

- 1. Deborah was a mirror to show the men of Israel their disgrace.

VI. Woman hold a very important place that men often overlook.

- A. In proverbs chapter 31 we find the description of godly wife
- B. I am throwing this in here not to patronize the woman but for us men to stop and realize how great a gift our wives are and that we should not restrain them, but help them to reach for these goals in their lives.
- C. The wife of Nobel Character:
 - 1. Worth more than rubies
 - 2. Has her husbands trust
 - 3. She takes care of the food and clothes
 - 4. She buys a field
 - 5. She plants a vineyard
 - 6. She trades
 - 7. She earns
 - 8. She helps the poor and needy
- D. The text says that she has:
 - 1. Strength
 - 2. Dignity
 - 3. Wisdom
- E. Verse 31 says: *“Give her the reward she has earned and let her works bring her praise at the city gates”*
 - 1. A real leader would settle for nothing less.
- F. Woman are not a nail for us men to drive down.
- G. There is a great problem among men today.
 - 1. We tend to think that MSL is about:
 - a. Power
 - b. Control
 - c. Decision making
 - e. But God says....No !

VII Then came Jesus into the world and He demanded Male Spiritual Leadership

- A. Jesus treated women with respect and honor
 - 1. He knew that they were very important part of His ministry
 - 2. And He valued their thoughts and ideas

B. But when it came time to appoint His apostles

1. They were all men
2. It wasn't because He feared the Jews
3. And He certainly wasn't chauvinistic
4. It was simply God's design

VIII. Then came the Grecian widows and their needs in Acts chapter 6

A. Help was needed waiting on tables

1. And again men were appointed
 - a. Why?Because it was God's design for men to take the lead.

B. God wanted us to know that MSL is about service...not being served

IX. Then in Acts 2:17 the prophet Joel is quoted when it says "Your son's and daughters will prophecy"

A. This is not a changing of God's mind, and permission for woman to take the lead.

B. In the New Covenant woman were coming to God on their own and not on the bootstraps of a man.

C. And baptism was the sign of the New Covenant

1. And it included woman.
2. You see the New Testament takes into account that the lesson of MSL has been learned.

X. Then we come to 1 Corinthians chapter 11 (The veils)

A. Here 3 things seem to be in view

1. First, equality can exist even with authority and submission
 - a. Because, God is the head of Christ
 - b. And Christ is submissive to God
 - c. They are equal...but headship and submission still exist.
2. Then 2nd, Paul talks about coverings or veils
 - a. There are many different view points about this passage

b. But there is one part of this passage that is un-mistakable

1 Corinthians 11:10 “Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.”

c. Apparently the women of Corinth were taking their new found freedom in Christ, given in Gal 3:28

-There is neither

-Greek or Jew

-Slave or Free

-Male or Female

-For you are all one in Christ

d. They were taking this new found freedom and making a statement of:

-Liberation

-Or emancipation

e. And Paul says if that is why your taking off the veil ...put it back on

f. The principle of MSL is just as valid today as it was in the beginning.

3. And 3rd, Role reversal is brought up in Verse 7

a. The man shall not cover his head

b. We find it silly and even quite disturbing to see a man dress in drag

c. But men don't have to put on a woman's garment to take on their role.

XI. So why does God have men lead in the worship service?

A. 1 Corinthians 14:34 *“The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.”*

1. It's certainly not because they aren't able

2. I think leading in the worship service encourages men to take leadership home with them.

a. When a man learns to lead in the church, he also learns to lead at home.

B. I hope that the scripture reader today has learned from his experience.

C. I hope that as the men passed the trays they learned more about servant leading.

XII. To me woman seem to be more spiritual than us men are

A. Have you ever noticed

1. Woman usually have a better sense of morals?
2. At Christian book stores:
 - a. 80% of their customers are woman
 - They market to them
 - b. When a man comes into the store, he heads to the reference section to prove his point.
 - c. But, the woman flock around the sections that will help them grow a deeper relationship with God.

B. I have to wonder why God doesn't let the woman lead?

1. Personally through my years of experience, I think if He did most men would sit back and let the woman do it all.
2. I think God has given to us men what doesn't come natural to us.

C. Some have said being a leader is a privilege or an honor.

1. In some ways I suppose that is true
2. But in more ways it is not.
 - a. Steven Farrar wrote a book called point man...about MSL
 - b. Where he points out that the leader of an army advancement is usually the 1st one to get shot
3. Being the leader is a responsibility
4. It comes from necessity
5. And most of the time it is a very heavy burden

D. Men are kind of like rail road tracks.

1. They give direction and lead the way.
2. They bear the weight of responsibility.
- * While the woman in many ways is the locomotion that pushes them down the track.

C. Men sing base (Boring)

1. Woman sing soprano (Soaring like birds)
2. We are boring and woman are soaring.

E. We need to understand ourselves as complimentary

1. Fulfilling each other.

Conclusion:

Men let's stop talking about what the woman can and can't do.

-But what God has called us to do and to be.

*This is what woman really want and usually can't find.

As a servant of God, through God's mighty word I charge you to lead your homes.

-Not in a degrading way

-Not with power / control / decision making

*But with the love of God