

BIBLICAL PATTERN FOR HUSBANDS AND FATHERS  
(Ephesians 5:23-33)

- I. His LEADERSHIP (Eph. 5:23-24)
  - A. A SPIRITUAL leader (Gen. 18; 17-19; Deut. 6:6-7)
    - 1. Must take time to be PERSONALLY led of God
      - a. Through Bible STUDY at HOME and Bible INSTRUCTION at CHURCH
      - b. Through PRAYER
    - 2. Involves AWARENESS of family's NEEDS
    - 3. Sees to it that his family is well INSTRUCTED in the BIBLE and a CHRISTIAN world-view
      - a. Through FAITHFUL participation in the SERVICES of a Bible-teaching CHURCH
      - b. Through PERSONAL instruction at HOME
      - c. Through various other means of INSTRUCTION
  - B. A good PROVIDER (1 Tim. 5:8)
    - 1. Unselfish MONEY management
    - 2. Providing TIME for the family
    - 3. Providing EMOTIONAL support for the family
  - C. A good MANAGER (1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12)
    - 1. Must DISCOVER and help DEVELOP each family member's ABILITIES and INTERESTS
    - 2. Must DELEGATE appropriate responsibilities
  - D. An INTELLIGENT leader (1 Pet. 3:7a)
    - 1. Must KNOW the needs of the family
    - 2. Must give THOUGHT and DIRECTION to meeting those needs

- E. A CONSIDERATE leader (1 Pet. 3:7b; Col. 3:19)
  - 1. Showing his wife HONOR in public and in private, never being HARSH or BITTER
  - 2. Having his children in SUBJECTION, without PROVOKING them to wrath (1 Tim. 3:4, 12; Eph. 6:4)
- II. His LOVE (Eph. 5:25-33)
  - A. The NATURE of his LOVE
    - 1. It is from GOD (Eph. 5:18ff; Rom. 5:5)
      - a. Controlled by the HOLY SPIRIT
      - b. Self-SACRIFICIAL
    - 2. It is as his own BODY (Eph. 5:28-29; 6:4)
      - a. His wife is PART of HIMSELF
        - 1) Must neither ABUSE nor NEGLECT her
        - 2) Must always act for her GOOD
        - 3) Must “nourish” (STRENGTHEN) her
        - 4) Must “cherish” (TREASURE) her
      - b. His children are his LEGACY (Ps. 127:3-5)
        - 1) Must treat them as the LORD’S GIFT
        - 2) Must bring them up in the DISCIPLINE and INSTRUCTION of the Lord
  - B. The EXPRESSION of his LOVE
    - 1. Must be SACRIFICIAL (Eph. 5:25)
    - 2. Must be REALISTIC (Rom. 5:8)
    - 3. Must be PURPOSEFUL (Eph. 5:27)
    - 4. Must be WILLFUL (John 3:16)
    - 5. Must be UNCONDITIONAL (Eph. 5:28, 31)
- III. Some Ramifications
  - A. Failure will make one UNFIT for church LEADERSHIP
  - B. Failure results in hindered PRAYERS, which leads to DISCOURAGEMENT (1 Pet. 3:7; Luke 18:1)
  - C. Success is evidence of the FILLING of the HOLY SPIRIT (Eph. 5:18-21)