

GODLY HEADSHIP
1 CORINTHIANS 11:3

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Introduction:

1. No one needs to tell us that our generation may be watching the death of marriage and an attempt to obliterate the family as we know it.
2. Many things have contributed to this: immorality, adultery, homosexuality, abortion, woman's liberation, and sexual rebellion.
3. If the devil can destroy marriages, he can destroy churches. If the family is not preserved, all society will collapse.
4. There is a biblical hierarchy that God has designed to preserve marriage and the family. The Apostle Paul shows us what that hierarchy is in our text.
5. Problems arise when this godly order of headship is ignored and not followed.

I. THIS HEADSHIP GOES BACK TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN. **Genesis 2:18; 21-23** *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."*

- A. The man is first in order in being, was first formed, and the woman out of him, who was made for him, and not he for the woman, and therefore must be head.
- B. Likewise with regard to pre-eminence or government, the man is the head; and as Christ is the head of the church, and the church is subject to him, so the husband is the head of the wife, and she is to be subject to him in everything natural, civil, and religious.
- C. Moreover, the man is the head of the woman to provide and care for her, to nourish and cherish her, and to protect and defend her against all outside forces.
- D. It is very interesting to notice that while the Gospel so clearly insists on the divine order, it has elevated woman to be man's true helpmeet, and has caused her to be honored and loved as the glory of man.

"Neither society, nor family life, nor woman herself, can be happy unless she attains her true position. On the one hand she finds her completion in man; on the other she is his queen and he ministers to her in all gentleness and tenderness and strength." F.B. Meyer

II. THE CURSE THAT ATTACKS THE HEADSHIP IN MARRIAGE. **Genesis 3:16** *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."*

- A. When Eve was tempted by the devil to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and she, in turn, tempted Adam to eat, God brought curses to both of them.
- B. Adam was cursed with having to work and labor all of his life and was no longer fed by God, but had to provide food for himself through his labors. **Genesis 3:17-18** *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.*

- C. There is an interesting play on words that God used in the curse on women. The phrase “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”
- D. Eve usurped the headship of her husband when she took of the fruit and fell into sin.
- E. The Hebrew word translated “desire” in v. 16 is used only two other times in the OT. It comes from an Arabic root that means, “to compel, to impel, to urge, to seek control.” **Genesis 4:7** *If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.*
- F. In Genesis 4:7 God is speaking to Cain and tells him, “Sin’s desire is for you, but you must master it.” In other words, sin will desire to control or master Cain.
- G. It is the same word that appears in Genesis 3:16, in the identical form, in the same grammatical structure. So whatever it means in 4:7 it would also mean in 3:16 because it is in the same context.
- H. So Genesis 3:16 would rightly read, “Your desire shall be to control your husband, but he shall rule over you.”
- I. So God lets Adam know that from the time of the garden, women have sought to control men. It is part of their DNA.

III. THE ERASING OF THE CURSE.

- A. Is there an answer to the curse? Absolutely! The answer is Jesus!
- B. Women have been oppressed by the crushing power of men who want to keep them subdued. And men have been harassed by women who want to rise to the top and take over.
- C. When Jesus comes into the life of an individual, be it a man or a woman, and they are filled with the Holy Spirit of God, they learn to submit to the God-ordained pattern for marriage and the home.
- D. Wives willingly submit and husbands lovingly lead. That’s God’s way. **Ephesians 5:22** *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. v. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...; 1 Peter 3:1-2* *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.*

Conclusion:

1. I have seen many Christian wives who fail to submit to God’s Word and it causes nothing but havoc in the marriage.
2. Ladies, don’t use your favors to get your husband to do what you want them to, but submit to their godly authority of headship.
3. Husbands, love your wife like Jesus loves His church. Listen to them, pray with them, but ultimately it is you who must make decisions based upon God’s Word.
4. Too many husbands are wimps and allow the wife to control the decisions. Men, don’t be a wimp! **1 Corinthians 16:13** *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be a man, be strong.*