

God-Given Roles and Responsibilities in the Marriage and Family

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THE MAN

The Man as a Husband

His role:

“Head” (Gr. *kephale* = head, lead, guide, direct, rule w/ authority). Scripture references: Gen. 3:16 (rule); 1 Cor. 11:3 (head); Eph. 5:22-23 (head); 1 Tim. 3:4-5, 12 (rule); 1 Pet. 3:6 (lord); see also 1 Cor. 11:8; 1 Tim. 2:13.

His responsibilities toward his wife:

Spiritual

Lead her to serve the Lord; spiritual integrity (Josh. 24:15; Job 2:9; 1 Cor. 14:35)
Be righteous together (Lk. 1:5-6)
Be a joint heir with her; a faithful Christian (1 Pet. 3:7)
Pray together (1 Pet. 3:7; Judges 13:8ff)

Physical

Leave and cleave (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31)
Fulfill her sexual needs (Gen. 2:24; Prov. 5:18-19; S. of S. 4:12 - 5:1; 1 Cor. 7:1-5)
Be affectionate; kiss her (S. of S. 8:1)
Be faithful and loyal to her (Prov. 5:19-20; Mt. 19:3-6; 1 Cor. 7:11; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Heb. 13:4)
Work to provide for her (Gal. 3:19; 1 Tim. 5:8)
Physically protect her (Neh. 4:14; Eph. 5:28)

Emotional

Be one with her (Gen. 2:24)
Trust her (Prov. 31:11)
Love, nourish (promote health), and cherish (impart warmth) her (Eph. 5:25ff; Col. 3:19)
Value and honor her (Prov. 12:4; 18:22; 19:14; 31:10; 1 Pet. 3:7)

Social

Live joyfully with her; dwell closely with her (Deut. 24:5; Prov. 2:17; Eccl. 9:9; Mal. 2:14; 1 Cor. 7:33; 1 Pet. 3:7)
Do enjoyable things together (S. of S. 7:10-12)
Be understanding; communicate through kind words and listening; know her needs; sympathize; show appreciation (1 Pet. 3:7)

His attitude toward his wife:

Need her (Gen. 2:18, 20; 3:12; Prov. 18:22; 19:14)
Praise her (Prov. 31:23, 28-29)
Love her as Christ loved (sacrificial, serving)... love her as himself (self-respect, self-worth) (Eph. 5:25-33; Gen. 2:21-23)

Be not bitter against her (Col. 3:19)
Give her honor as unto the weaker vessel (1 Pet. 3:7)

The Man as a Father

His role: (see above)

His responsibilities toward his children:

Spiritual

Teach them God's word (Gen. 18:19; Deut. 6:6-9; Prov. 1:8; 6:20; 13:1; 23:24)
Lead them to serve the Lord (Josh. 24:15)
Bring them up (nurture) in the chastening (child training) and admonition (warn, put to mind) of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)
Lead them in the Lord's work (Neh. 3:12; 1 Cor. 16:15)
Set the right example for them (Deut. 18:19; 1 K. 22:43, 52-53; Prov. 17:6; 20:7; 1 Pet. 1:18; 1 Jn. 2:13-14)
Remember that God gave them to you (Gen. 33:5; Psa. 127:3)
Pray for them (1 Chron. 29:18-19)

Physical

Lay up an inheritance for them (Prov. 13:22; 19:14; 2 Cor. 12:14)
Work to provide for them (Gen. 3:19; Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 5:8)
Physically protect them (Neh. 4:14)

Corrective

Instruct them and correct them (Prov. 3:12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17, 19; Heb. 12:7-11)
Cause them to obey (Prov. 15:5; Eph. 6:1; Phil. 2:22; Col. 3:20; 1 Tim. 3:4-5)

His attitude toward his children:

Do not provoke them or discourage them (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21)
Be loving (Psa. 103:13; Lk. 11:11-13)
Be forgiving (Lk. 15:20)
Be encouraging (1 Thess. 2:11)