

~HEADSHIP (398)

- **Mans Place**
- **Woman's Place**
- **Responsibility**

- **The basic principle of headship is set out at;**
- **But I want you to know that the head of every man is the Christ. In turn the head of a woman is the man. In turn the head of the Christ is God. (1 Corinthians 11:3)**
- **The head of every man is the Christ. In turn the head of a woman is the man. In turn the head of the Christ is God.**

· **Man's Place**

- **The first part of this counsel on headship applied to the man. He is not independent and without need to recognize a head. Rather, he is obliged to follow the directions and pattern provided by his head, Christ.**
- **He that says he remains in union with him is under obligation himself also to go on walking just as that one walked. (1 John 2:6)**
- **This is so not only in regard to his religious activities.**
- **Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)**
- **Teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things. (Matthew 28:20)**
- **But also in his personal activities. For instance, if he is a family man, then out of respect for his own head, Christ, he should comply with the counsel to dwell with his wife according to knowledge, by assigning her honor as to a weaker vessel, and he should put forth an earnest effort to train his children properly.**
- **You husbands, continue dwelling in like manner with them**

- according to knowledge, assigning them honor as to a weaker vessel, the feminine one, since you are also heirs with them of the undeserved favor of life, in order for your prayers not to be hindered. (**1 Peter 3:7**)
- And you, fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Yehowah. (**Ephesians 6:4**)
 - This counsel was provided in the Bible for all in Christ's congregation, so respect for **headship** is involved in a man's heeding it.
 - Because a husband is **head** of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of this body. (**Ephesians 5:23**)
 - As man had priority in human creation, he is given priority of position over the woman.
 - I do not permit a woman to teach, or to exercise authority over a man, but to be in silence. (**1 Timothy 2:12**)
 - For Adam was formed first, then Eve. (**1 Timothy 2:13**)
 - The woman was made from a rib taken from the man and was bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh.
 - And Yehowah God proceeded to build the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman and to bring her to the man. (**Genesis 2:22**)
 - Then the man said; This is at last bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one will be called Woman, because from man this one was taken. (**Genesis 2:23**)
 - She was created for the sake of the man, not the man for her sake.
 - And, what is more, man was not created for the sake of the woman, but woman for the sake of the man. (**1 Corinthians 11:9**)
 - Therefore, the woman, in God's arrangement for the family, was always to be in subjection to her husband and was not to usurp his authority.

- **Let wives be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:22)**
- **Because a husband is **head** of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of this body. (Ephesians 5:23)**
- **In like manner, you wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, in order, that, if any are not obedient to the word, they may be won without a word through the conduct of their wives. (1 Peter 3:1)**
- **Also, in the Christian congregation the woman is not to teach other dedicated men nor to exercise authority over them.**
- **I do not permit a woman to teach, or to exercise authority over a man, but to be in silence. (1 Timothy 2:12)**
- **Among the Hebrews of ancient times the superior position occupied by the man in the family and in the tribal arrangement was recognized. Sarah was submissive, calling Abraham lord, and is favorably mentioned for this recognition of his **headship**.**
- **Hence Sarah began to laugh inside herself, saying; After I am worn out, shall I really have pleasure, my lord being old besides? (Genesis 18:12)**
- **For so, too, formerly the holy women who were hoping in God used to adorn themselves, subjecting themselves to their own husbands. (1 Peter 3:5)**
- **As Sarah used to obey Abraham, calling him lord. And you have become her children, provided you keep on doing good and not fearing any cause for terror. (1 Peter 3:6)**
- **Under the Law covenant the preferred position of the male was emphasized. Only the males were required by command to assemble for the three festivals of Yehowah at the place that God chose, although women also attended.**
- **Three times in the year every male of yours should appear before Yehowah your God in the place that he will choose. In the festival of the unfermented cakes and in the festival of weeks**

and in the festival of booths, and none should appear before Yehowah empty-handed. ([Deuteronomy 16:16](#))

- **The woman was ceremonially unclean twice as long after the birth of a baby girl as after that of a baby boy.**
- **Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; In case a woman conceives seed and does bear a male, she must be unclean seven days, as in the days of the impurity when she is menstruating she will be unclean. ([Leviticus 12:2](#))**
- **Now if she should bear a female, she must then be unclean fourteen days, as during her menstruation. For sixty-six days more she will stay with the blood of purification. ([Leviticus 12:5](#))**

.. Woman's Place

- **In ancient times, there were circumstances under which a woman put on a **head** covering to denote subjection.**
- **Then she said to the servant; Who is that man there walking in the field to meet us? And the servant said; It is my master. And she proceeded to take a head-cloth and to cover herself. ([Genesis 24:65](#))**
- **Discussing the **headship** arrangement in the Christian congregation, the apostle Paul explained that if a woman prays or prophesies in the congregation, occupying a position God has assigned to the man, she should have on a **head** covering.**
- **In temporarily doing these things because no dedicated male Christian is present to do them, even though she may have long hair, the woman should not argue that her long hair is sufficient to denote her subjection.**
- **Instead, she should let her own actions demonstrate her submissiveness and her acknowledgment of man's **headship**. The Christian woman does this by wearing a head covering as a sign of authority.**
- **This should be done because of the angels, who observe the Christians actions and who, as those ministering to the Christian congregation, are concerned with it.**

- **By wearing a **head** covering when necessary for spiritual reasons, the Christian woman acknowledges God's **headship** arrangement.**
- **But every woman that prays or prophesies with her **head** uncovered shames her **head**, for it is one and the same as if she were a woman with a shaved **head**. (1 Corinthians 11:5)**
- **For if a woman does not cover herself, let her also be shorn, but if it is disgraceful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. (1 Corinthians 11:6)**
- **For a man ought not to have his head covered, as he is God's image and glory, but the woman is man's glory. (1 Corinthians 11:7)**
- **For man is not out of woman, but woman out of man. (1 Corinthians 11:8)**
- **And, what is more, man was not created for the sake of the woman, but woman for the sake of the man. (1 Corinthians 11:9)**
- **That is why the woman ought to have a sign of authority upon her head because of the angels. (1 Corinthians 11:10)**
- **Besides, in connection with the Lord neither is woman without man nor man without woman. (1 Corinthians 11:11)**
- **For just as the woman is out of the man, so also the man is through the woman, but all things are out of God. (1 Corinthians 11:12)**
- **Judge for your own selves. Is it fitting for a woman to pray uncovered to God? (1 Corinthians 11:13)**
- **Does not nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him. (1 Corinthians 11:14)**
- **But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? Because her hair is given her instead of a headdress. (1 Corinthians 11:15)**
- **However, if any man seems to dispute for some other custom, we have no other, neither do the congregations of God. (1 Corinthians 11:16)**

- Are they not all spirits for public service, sent forth to minister for those who are going to inherit salvation? (**Hebrews 1:14**)
- This proper theocratic order in the congregation and in the family arrangement does not hinder the woman in serving God, nor does it impede her efforts in carrying out her family activities and responsibilities.
- It allows her full and Scriptural freedom to serve in her place, while still being pleasing to God in harmony with the principle. God has set the members in the body, each one of them, just as he pleased.
- But now God has set the members in the body, each one of them, just as he pleased. (**1 Corinthians 12:18**)
- Many women of ancient times had fine privileges while recognizing the **headship** of the man and enjoyed happy and satisfying lives. Among these were Sarah, Rebekah, Abigail, and Christian women such as Priscilla and Phoebe.

•• Responsibility

- The exercise of authorized **headship** grants certain rights, but it also involves duties or obligations. Christ is **head** of the congregation and so has the right to make decisions involving it and demonstrate authority over it.
- Because a husband is **head** of his wife as the Christ also is **head** of the congregation, he being a savior of this body. (**Ephesians 5:23**)
- But his **headship** also obliges him to accept the duty of caring for the congregation and bearing responsibility for his decisions. In a similar manner, a husband in exercising his **headship** has certain rights as to making final decisions and providing oversight.
- In addition, though, he has the duty to accept responsibility for his family. He has the primary obligation to provide materially and spiritually for his household.
- Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith. (**1 Timothy 5:8**)

- **The Christian man is to exercise his **headship** wisely, loving his wife as himself.**
- **Nevertheless, also, let each one of you individually so love his wife as he does himself, on the other hand, the wife should have deep respect for her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)**
- **Jesus Christ exercises his **headship** over the Christian congregation in this manner.**
- **In this way husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (Ephesians 5:28)**
- **For no man ever hated his own flesh, but he feeds and cherishes it, as the Christ also does the congregation. (Ephesians 5:29)**
- **As head over his children, a father is not to irritate them.**
- **And you, fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Yehowah. (Ephesians 6:4)**
- **And as shepherds of the flock of God, older men in the Christian congregation are not to lord it over God's sheep, but are to remember their subjection to Jesus Christ and Yehowah God.**
- **Therefore, to the older men among you I give this exhortation, for I too am an older man with them and a witness of the sufferings of the Christ, a sharer even of the glory that is to be revealed. (1 Peter 5:1)**
- **Shepherd the flock of God in your care, not under compulsion, but willingly, neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly. (1 Peter 5:2)**
- **Neither as lording it over those who are God's inheritance, but becoming examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:3)**
- **And when the chief shepherd has been made manifest, you will receive the unfadable crown of glory. (1 Peter 5:4)**

- **Jesus Christ has always acted in accord with the **headship** principle, manifesting full recognition of his Father's **headship** in word and deed.**
- **Even after ruling the earth for a thousand years, he will acknowledge Yehowah's universal headship by handing the Kingdom over to Yehowah, subjecting himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.**
- **Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. (1 Corinthians 15:24)**
- **For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet (1 Corinthians 15:25)**
- **As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing. (1 Corinthians 15:26)**
- **For God subjected all things under his feet. But when he says that all things have been subjected, it is evident that it is with the exception of the one who subjected all things to him. (1 Corinthians 15:27)**
- **But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone. (1 Corinthians 15:28)**
- **Therefore, in answer, Jesus went on to say to them; Most truly I say to you, the Son cannot do a single thing of his own initiative, but only what he beholds the Father doing. For whatever things that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner. (John 5:19)**
- **I cannot do a single thing of my own initiative, just as I hear, I judge, and the judgment that I render is righteous, because I seek, not my own will, but the will of him that sent me. (John 5:30)**
- **Therefore Jesus said; When once you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing of my own initiative, but just as the Father taught me I speak these things. (John 8:28)**

- You heard that I said to you, I am going away and I am coming back to you. If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going my way to the Father, because the Father is greater than I am. (**John 14:28**)
- Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus. (**Philippians 2:5**)
- Who, although he was existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God. (**Philippians 2:6**)
- No, but he emptied himself and took a slaves form and came to be in the likeness of men. (**Philippians 2:7**)
- More than that, when he found himself in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, yes, death on a torture stake. (**Philippians 2:8**)
- Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, also acknowledge Yehowah's supreme **headship**, addressing their prayers to him and recognizing him as Father and God Almighty.
- You must pray, then, this way. Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. (**Matthew 6:9**)
- I am the Alpha and the Omega, says Yehowah God, the One who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty. (**Revelation 1:8**)
- And the twenty-four elders who were seated before God upon their thrones fell upon their faces and worshiped God. (**Revelation 11:16**)
- Saying; We thank you, Yehowah God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun ruling as king. (**Revelation 11:17**)

See Also FAMILY

See Also HUSBAND