

FROM THE PREACHER

By: Blake Hudson

The Bible and Male Leadership

A final consideration in this series on the question of deaconesses is the biblical pattern of male leadership in the home and the Church. In the last article, I alluded to this pattern as another reason the offices of elder and deacon are to be limited to qualified men. There are many aspects we could focus on, and countless articles could be written on this subject, but what I would like to do here is to simply offer some points of reflection on the concept of male leadership.

First, why do I say there is a pattern of male leadership in the Bible? Consider the following: 1) Adam was formed first, then Eve was formed from / for Adam, 2) Before the Mosaic Law, the male head of the household was responsible for acting in a priestly role (see Job, for example), 3) The Mosaic Law limited the priesthood to qualified men, 4) Jesus chose 12 men to be His apostles, 5) The “deacons” of Acts 6 were men, 6) Wives are called to submit to their husbands, but never husbands to wives, and 7) The office of elder is limited to qualified men (and deacon too, I have argued).

Having said that, it's worthwhile to remind ourselves of what male leadership does not mean. It does not mean men get to be tyrants, demand that they get their way, or in any way abuse their strength or authority (see 1 Peter 3:7). What male leadership does mean is that men are given *responsibility* to lead in their households and in the Church. Men do not get a say in this: whether they like it or not, God has given them responsibility to lead well, to lead sacrificially, and to make sure those under their charge are cared for physically and spiritually. God has given this responsibility, and those entrusted with it should expect to give an account to God for how they carry it out.

One of the most comprehensive statements about male leadership in the household is Ephesians 5:22–33 (please grab a Bible and read it!). While there is much to discuss about this passage, here I would like to point out the beautiful balance it describes. Yes, men are given leadership responsibility and wives are called to submit to that leadership. But, how is the male leadership described? As sacrificial, as willing to die for the welfare of their wives as Christ died for the Church. This “dying” could be literal, but for most men “dying to self” would look more like sacrificing hobbies and preferences in order to give time and attention to their wives and children. Not only does Paul describe leadership in sacrificial terms, but he also points out that men and women are completely dependent on one another. Men are to lead, yes, but they are also to keep in mind that if it were not for women (specifically, their mothers) they would not be here. Most importantly, when both parties strive to live out their biblical roles: husbands leading sacrificially and wives submitting humbly, they create a living picture of Christ and the Church.

The concept of male leadership in the home also transfers over to the Church (which is a household of households). This is not to say that all women are to submit to all men – the Bible says no such thing. Wives are to submit to their husbands, not all women to all men. Nevertheless, in the Church, leadership is given to qualified men in the offices of elder and deacon and the congregation as a whole is called upon to submit to that leadership.

Much more could be said on this subject, but this is where we will end. I hope these points of reflection, and this series on the question of deaconesses as a whole, have been helpful.

Attention Youth!

Teens

There will be a Teen Devotional this Sunday.

November 9th, after evening worship. Please make plans attend and bring a friend!

December Happenings

12/6-Heart of Christmas

12/7-Bible Scouts

12/13-Budget Breakfast

12/13-Workday

12/13-Ladies Breakfast at the Ratcliff's

12/14-Teen Devo

12/28-End of Year, Area Wide Singing

12/31-New Year Fellowship

India could use your continued support in sponsorship of student preachers enrolled in preaching school. If you would like to support a student the cost is:

- \$50 per month to support an in-person student
- \$20 per month to support and online student


Please give payments to any elder or office staff.



Adult Bible Study

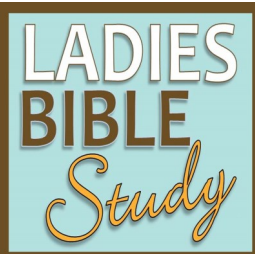
Sunday morning's Adult Bible class will be covering... Acts 15 : 1-21

COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES



If you would like to donate toward college students care packages, please see Carol King.

The next Ladies Bible Study will be Saturday, November 15th.



Please Pray

James Carr is home and doing well after hip replacement yesterday...Pattie Cooper is scheduled for surgery tomorrow...Jeff King will have cataract surgery this week...Brian Dodds, co-worker of Randy Wilkinson, is in ICU with brain bleeds...Jackie Haynes continues to recover from back surgery...Johnny Toon, Karen Lowe's son, is home with her and has been placed on Hospice

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Len Boling, Dorothy Booth, Shirley Brown, Barbara Filipp, Robert Gautney, Jeanie Granger, Cliff Harper, Jackie Haynes, Erin West Janik, Karen Lowe, David Johnson, Dorothy King, Marie Leblanc, Theresa Malish, Charm Moser, Lila Odom, Karen Smith, Charles and Elizabeth Street, Andy Tilley, Caesar Vereen, Maggie Walker