

# Are We There Yet?

## “God’s Design for Men”

### Part 4

#### Review: A road trip to the right destination

- The wrong road broken down
- Two separate cars
- The right direction and destination, but hating everyone in the car when you get there

#### The great Designer’s plan - He speaks

##### Ephesians 5:21-33 (NLT)

And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. <sup>24</sup>As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. <sup>27</sup>He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. <sup>28</sup>In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. <sup>29</sup>No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. <sup>30</sup>And we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” <sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. <sup>33</sup>So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

#### We are to be God’s leader in the home

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Men are the head or leader (Eph 5:23)

- This is a responsibility, not just a privilege.
- Every team needs a leader.
- When you don’t lead, it creates a leadership vacuum.
- Those who are not as well equipped to lead will have to step in.
- The team will not be all it could be, but God can still do great things in spite of us.

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Men have a destination; you don’t get to choose it (Eph 5:26)

- Where am I to lead my team? Jesus is our example.
- Jesus came to lead us back to relationship with God.
- Our job is to lead our family to holiness; pure and set apart for God’s purposes.
- Washing through the Word, ready to present to God.

#### You must take a spiritual leadership position. What does that look like?

##### A. Lead your family in the right direction

- By praying for and with your wife
- By sharing your testimony with your kids
- By teaching your children to know God and understand His voice

##### B. Protecting your family from the devil and the world’s influence

- By guarding your family—what comes in the doors
- By making sure that they are not replacing God with other things

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> It is a joint leadership position with your wife – two becoming one (Eph 5:31)

- We each bring to the trip something essential to its success
- No one sees everything
- The man by himself is ineffective

### **How do I become one with my wife?**

- It starts with you!
- We must earn the right to lead

## **Three Barriers to Oneness**

### **The Barrier of Conditional Love**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. **Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)**

#### Sacrificial love

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8 (NIV)**

#### Unwavering love

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ... For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[a]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 8:35-39 (NIV)**

### **The Barrier of Ignorance**

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way...

#### **1 Peter 3:7 (NASB)**

- Date her for the rest of your life
- She is not supposed to be a clone of you
- Become a student of your wife— stay curious

### **The Barrier of Disrespect**

Show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. **1**

#### **Peter 3:7 (NASB)**

- Whose daughter is she?
- What is her value?
- How do other people perceive your attitude toward her?

### **Decisions that need to be made:**

Non Christians: Surrender to the Lord's design. He will move in and give you strength.

Christian Men: It's time to start the journey back to the right road. Get help if you need it.

Christian Women: It's time to forgive your husband, move over and let him lead.

Singles: Decide to look for a person who can fill God's job description.

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