

# THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

SERVANT LEADERS



# THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY: INTRODUCTION

Psalm 127

1 Unless the Lord builds the house,  
the builders labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the guards stand watch in vain.

2 In vain you rise early  
and stay up late,

toiling for food to eat—  
for he grants sleep to those he loves.

3 Children are a heritage from the Lord,  
offspring a reward from him.

4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior  
are children born in one's youth.

5 Blessed is the man  
whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame  
when they contend with their opponents in court.

God must be at the center of our home.

It is impossible to succeed without Him.

Having a family is a gift from God.  
It is a blessing.

## The Bow and Arrow Analogy:

The archer provides two things:

1. POWER - As parents, it is our responsibility to equip our children.
2. DIRECTION - It is also our duty to point them in the right direction.



**PART 1:**

Out of all our relationships, which is the most important?

1. The First Relationship in Creation: GOD (Genesis 1:27)

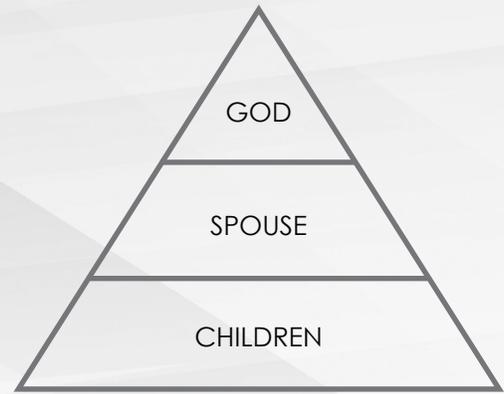
- God created us to have an INTIMATE relationship with Himself.
- If we do not fulfill this PURPOSE, we lose all MEANING in life.

2. The Second Relationship in Creation: SPOUSE (Genesis 2:18-25)

- God called Creation "GOOD," but said it was not good that man was ALONE.
- God created the woman out of Adam's own FLESH.
- Adam responded with POETRY.
- NUDITY is only appropriate within this relationship. (Intimacy)

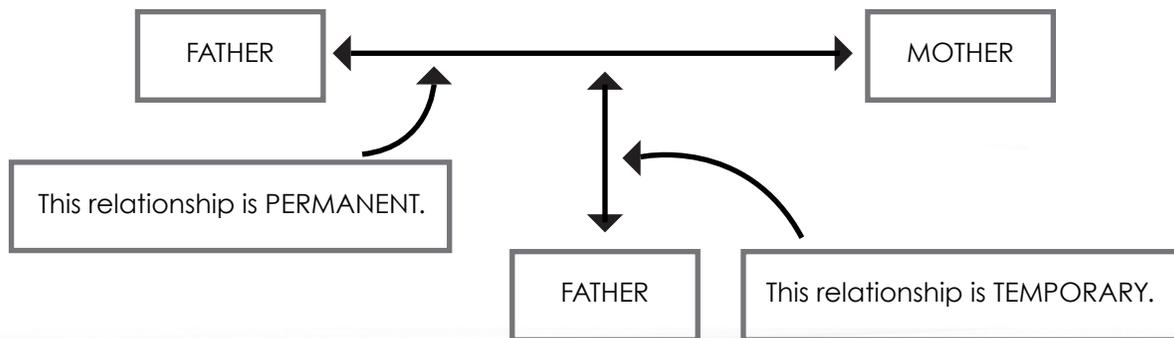
3. The Third Relationship in Creation: CHILDREN (Genesis 4:1, 25)

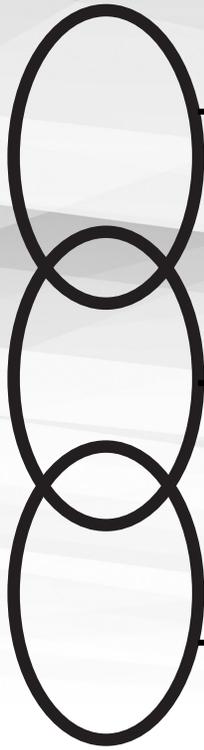
- This relationship DEPENDS upon the other two.
- Children bear the IMAGE of God, just like their parents.



**Are we sure that the last two aren't switched around?**

In many parts of the world, the relationship between parents and their children is considered more important than the relationship between a husband and wife. Sometimes, I believe it is because children's biological parents aren't even married. However, even if they are married, the value of the marriage has gone down in recent years. Oprah Winfrey once said, "Your spouse is nothing more than the person you chose to have sex with, but your children are yours forever. You share the same blood." This declaration exposes the belief that blood is thicker than vows, but that's not what the Bible says. (Notice that we are adopted into the family of God.) What does Genesis 2:23-24 teach?





**The Relationship Chain:**

**Relationship with God**

- Invest time in your relationship with God.
- Develop intimacy with Him.
- Model that relationship in front of your FAMILY.

**Relationship with your Spouse**

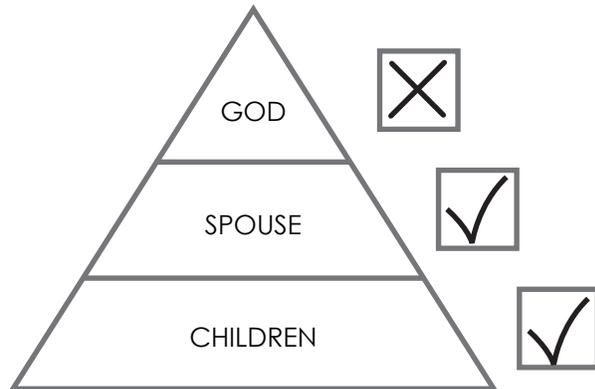
- Go on romantic "DATES" with your spouse.
- Develop intimacy with him or her.
- Model that relationship in front of your CHILDREN.

**Relationship with your Children**

- Get involved in your children's lives and interests.
- Develop intimacy with them.
- Model that relationship in front of OTHER FAMILIES.

**Erroneous Thought #1:**

*I'm not a very spiritual person, but I'm a good wife and mom.*



**Why is this thinking erroneous?**

It's erroneous because...

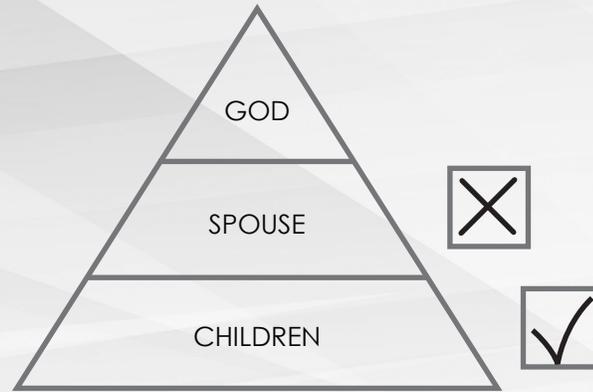
- (a) It does not take our PURPOSE into account. We were created to have an intimate relationship with God. We don't fulfill our own purpose.
- (b) We don't teach our CHILDREN how to have a relationship with God.
- (c) It is GOD who helps us have good relationships in the family.
- (d) [Let the students add their own.]
- (e)
- (f)
- (g)

*My relationship with God isn't so good, but I'm a good husband and dad.*



**Erroneous Thought #2:**

*I may not be a good wife, but I'm a good mom.*



**Why is this thinking erroneous?**

It's erroneous because...

- (a) We aren't good MODELS of intimacy for our children.
- (b) We don't help our kids learn to have an INTIMATE relationship with their future spouses.
- (c) It divides the AUTHORITY, causing chaos in the home.
- (d) [Let the students add their own.]
- (e)
- (f)
- (g)

*I don't have a good relationship with my wife, but I'm a good dad.*

**PART 2: The Value and Roles of Each Gender**

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:26-28

**A. Their Value**

1. Both are made in the IMAGE and LIKENESS of God.
2. God BLESSED both the man and the woman.
3. Both have the same RESPONSIBILITY to rule over the animal kingdom.

Therefore, they both have the same VALUE.



## B. Their Roles

3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 1 Corinthians 11:3

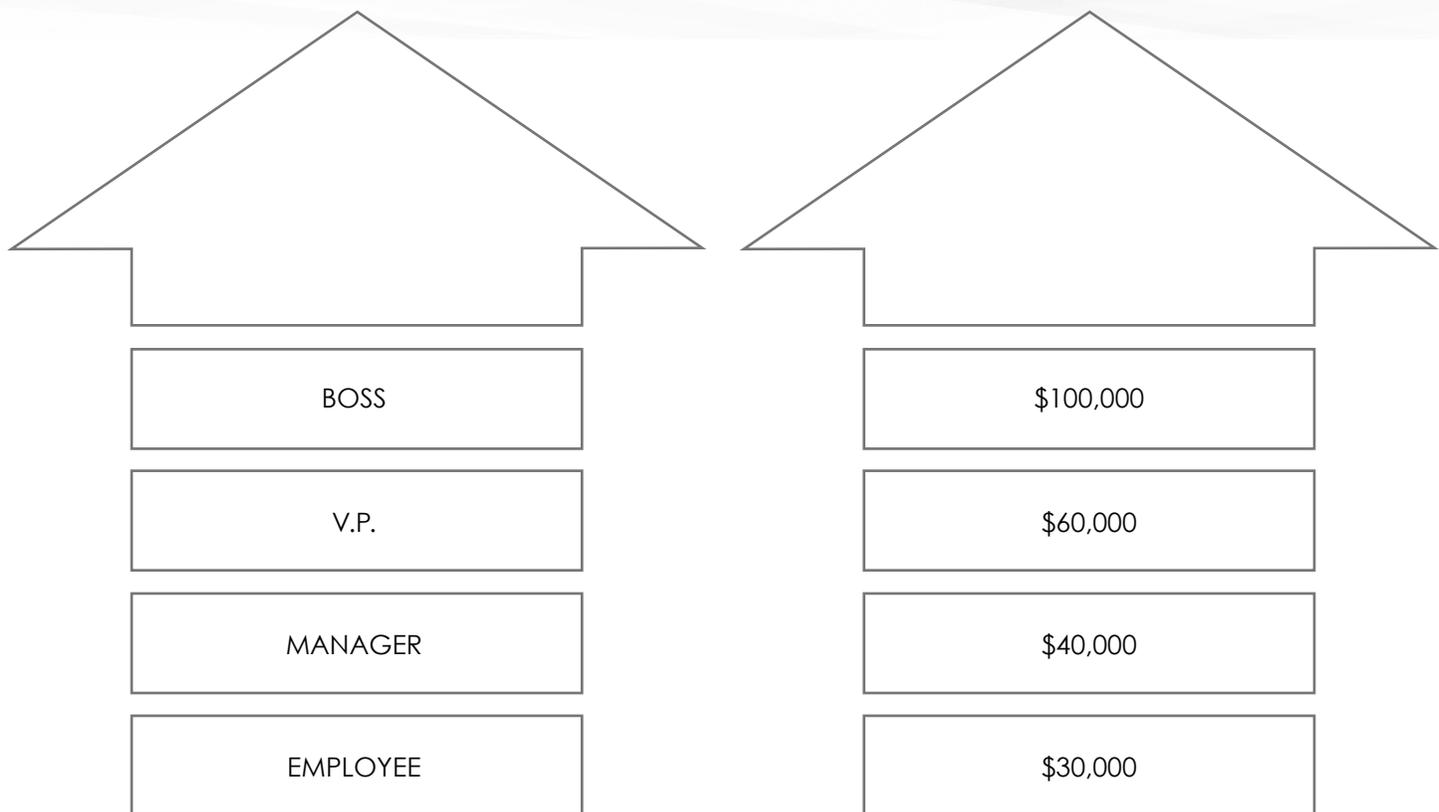
1. CHRIST is the head of every man.
2. The MAN is the head of the woman.
3. GOD is the head of Christ.

Does God have more value than Christ? NO.

### **Affirmation:**

The idea that value and authority are in direct proportion is a HUMAN and ERRONEOUS idea.

In the eyes of the world...



But what does the Bible say?

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:1-4

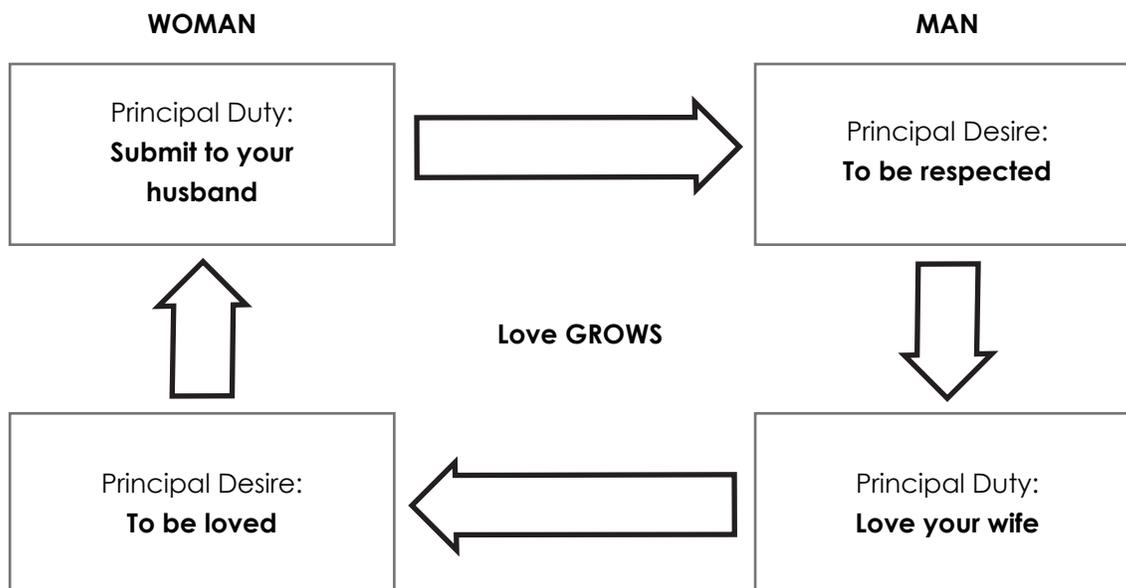
**Affirmation:** Leadership is just another way to SERVE!



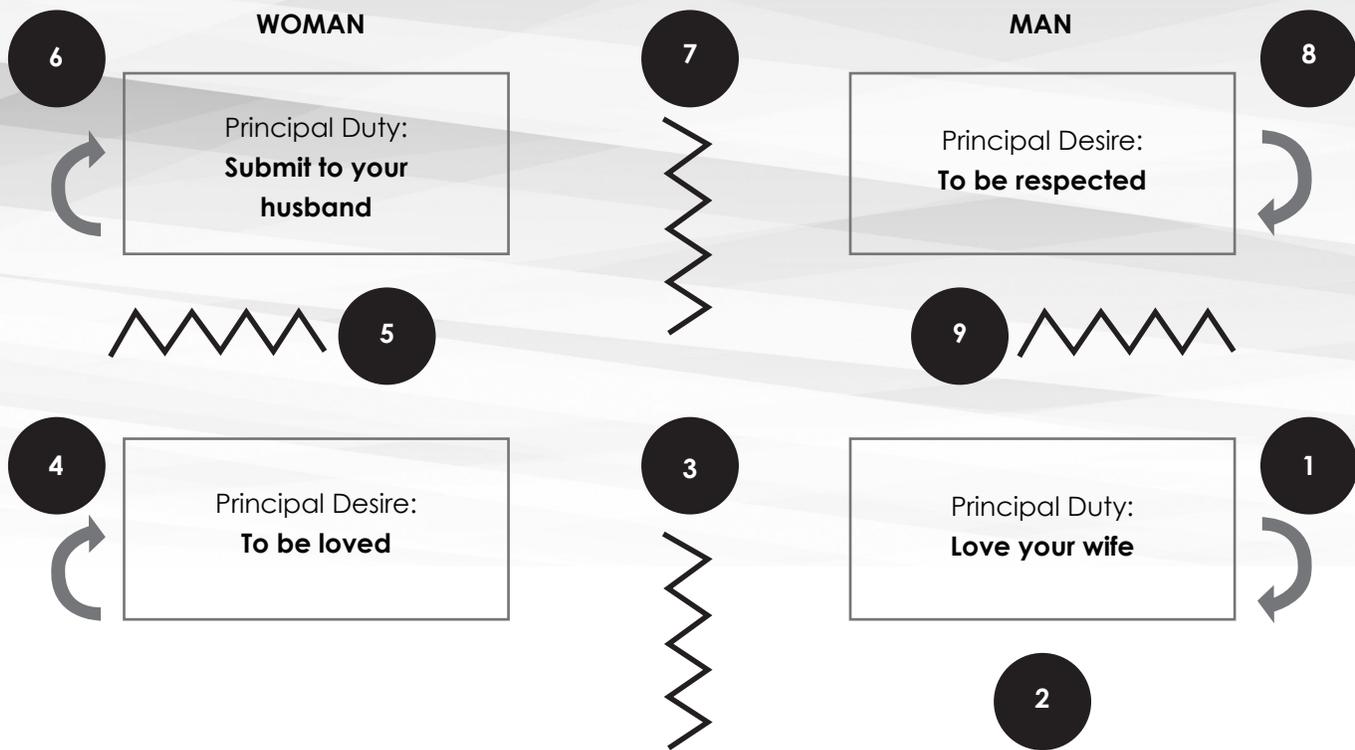
### Part 3: Marital Intimacy

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:21-23



## How Selfishness destroys the Relationship... [Follow the ●s]

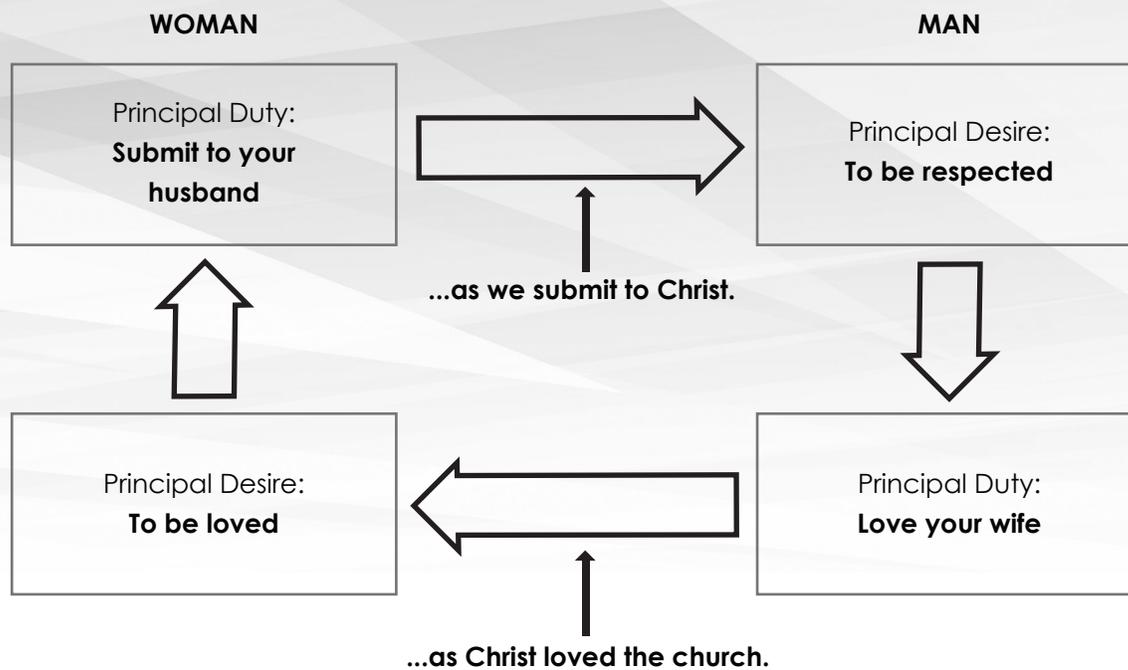


### Observations:

1. In an environment of selfishness, love WANES. Selfishness is the ENEMY of love.
2. If the wife does not submit to her husband, he will LOOK FOR RESPECT SOMEWHERE ELSE. (at work, in ministry, with another woman, etc.)
3. If the husband does not love his wife, she will LOOK FOR LOVE SOMEWHERE ELSE. (in other relationships.)
4. Usually, the marriage will end in DIVORCE.
5. Biblically, we are responsible to fulfill our duty even if our marriage partner does not complete their duty. (Does Christ still love us when we haven't been completely submissive?)



**Our Role Model: CHRIST**



**Observations:**

Men:

1. Christ LOVES us even when we don't submit to Him.
2. Christ SACRIFICED HIMSELF for our benefit.
3. Christ's love is SELFLESS, not SELFISH.

Women:

4. It is IMPOSSIBLE to follow Christ, if we don't follow the husband He has given us.
5. We must submit to our husbands WHOLE-HEARTEDLY, not just with our external actions. (Don't be a Pharisee wife!)



**Suggestions & Warnings:**

Men:

1. Don't DEMAND respect. Try to win it.
2. You must love your wife, even if she does not RESPECT you.
3. Don't SURRENDER your authority to your wife.
4. VALUE your wife's opinions as much as your own.

Women:

1. Don't demand LOVE. Try to win it.
2. You must submit to your husband, even when he does not DESERVE it.
3. Do not UNDERMINE your husband's authority.
4. RESPECT your husband's opinions.

**Part 4: The Relationship between Parents & Children**

**Biblical Parenthood:**

Usually, what is it that parents desire for their kids?	Biblically
INTELLIGENT	WISE
POPULAR	FRIENDLY
ATHLETIC	MASCULINE
ATTRACTIVE	FEMININE



#### 4 PARENTING PARADIGMS

<u>PARADIGM</u>	<u>GOAL</u>	<u>ROLE</u>
The BIRD Paradigm	INDEPENDENCE	PROVIDER
The BUDDHA Paradigm	IGNORANCE OF EVIL	PROTECTOR
The BOSS Paradigm	IMPERIALISM (SOVEREIGNTY)	PATROLMAN
The BIBLE Paradigm	INSTRUCTION	PREPARER

#### Observations:

1. Every false paradigm contains a portion of TRUTH.

As parents, should we provide for our kids?

As parents, should we protect for our kids?

As parents, should we patrol our kids' behavior?

Yes, but with the goal that our kids eventually are able to do it for themselves.

We want them to be able to protect themselves, and take charge of their own lives.

2. The words "Instruction," and "Prepare" imply that parents should be PROACTIVE, not just REACTIVE. For this reason, we have developed an entire workshop called *Proactive Parenting*.

3. When your children grow up, they will have to learn how to start their own family. That is why we have also created the workshop for teens and parents of teens called "*Romantic Relationships*."

PROACTIVE PARENTING

ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Thank you for attending this workshop. Please fill out an evaluation form because at Servant Leaders, we consistently seek to improve the content and presentation of Biblical truths!

