

Baldivis Leadership Sessions, March 2019

March 14, 2019 – Session #2: Leading your wife and children

Session 2: Introduction

1. People need direction, guidance counselling (at school: career, college TAFE, uni), locations, job, marriage partner, etc. cf. Ps. 23: 2b, 3
2. Leadership, as in business, military, political, church, with levels of leadership, rank, hierarchy: leaders need to accomplish something (goal!); leaders use incentives (raises, promotion, welfare, etc.); leaders influence their followers.
3. Leadership under God: Christian leadership (i.e. according to God's Word) accomplish God's purposes (glory, righteousness), cf. Josh. 24:15 in the family: knowing the LORD, walking with the LORD, serving the LORD (versus success, prosperity, materialism); servant leadership (Mk. 10: 45; 1 Pet. 5:3), observing the 5th commandment for wife and children (Eph. 5:22, 32; 6:1).

Session 2: Shepherding your wife

1. Women in the Bible: a high view – both male and female created in God's image; Jesus' life and ministry – talking to women (Jn. 4:27), dealing with women, speaking about women (parables).
2. Ephesians 5:22:
 - A partner, companion: submission as per verse 21;
 - Submission: root word "order" (cf. Hebr. 13:17, Obey leaders, submit..)
 - Peace, safety, security – leaders accountable to God!
 - Wife's submission is voluntary: submit yourself (cf. vs. 21)
 - Wife's submission is not inferior (1 Pet. 3:7): Christ equal to Father!
 - Wife's submission is to Christ (Col. 3:18), "as to the Lord."
3. Loving Leader: Eph. 5: 25 is key – sacrificial love of Christ
 - Christ's love is unconditional (Rom. 5:8 – sinners, enemies!), i.e. does not depend on circumstances (looks, cooking, body, condition), agape;
 - Christ's love is sacrificial (completely!) (Jn. 10:11 – Good Shepherd lays down his life; Christ came to serve, not to be served);
 - Christ's goal is holiness of the church – grow in faith, hope, and love; grow in God-given roles as wife and mother (stay at home)
 - Failing to love her: frustration – saying "I love you," showing "I love you;" failing to lead her: frustration – seeking a God-glorifying home, household, providing emotional, physical, and spiritual support; failing due to sin – husbands deserting the home, abdicating responsibility
4. Questions:
 - Examine "submission" as calling and practice in marriage.
 - Is your love unconditional, sacrificial?
 - Is your wife frustrated with you or thankful for you?

Session 2: Shepherding your children

1. Lead according to principle

- By God's Word (Prov. 3:5-6), e.g. in work, finances, relationships, decision-making;
 - By modelling: share with them the decisions you make (incl. why some were bad);
 - By word & deed: share with them how the Lord led you; how the world leads (or our "own understanding"); how difficult is the antithesis; showing your leadership by example:
2. Lead by *example*
 - Not: do what I say, not what I do - vs. hypocrisy;
 - Reading, studying the Bible; involvement in church; communication with your wife, i.e. practise what you preach! Live godly lives!
 - Be motivated by love for the Lord and for the well-being of your loved-ones;
 - Paul, 1 Cor. 11: 1, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."
 3. Lead them to *seek wise counsel*
 - Prov. 15: 22; 20: 18; cf. Prov. 12: 5
 - From *you*, hopefully: principle-based, not driven by expediency;
 - Someone you *know* as wise, who knows you, and who you can trust;
 - *Wise* counsel: know your children's friends and their 'counsel,' influence; let them spend their time together at your house; lead your children in seeking friends who love the Lord, His Word, His church.
 4. Questions
 - Examine the example you give to your children. Is it Christ-like? When was it not?
 - Consider the influences of your children: yours, primarily? Friends? Other?
 - Does your child seek your counsel and advice? Why? Why not?