

Nov 5, 2006 PM

**THE HEADSHIP OF THE HUSBAND:  
THE HUSBAND AS PROPHET  
EPHESIANS 5:22–6:4**

**1. THE PROPHET: STANDING BEFORE GOD AND MEN**

Prophet as *mediator*: prophet is, in some sense, a go-between between God and man.

Not all hold the office of prophet; cf. 1 Cor 12.27-31. But husbands are “lesser prophets” like we are “lesser priests.”

**A. STANDING IN THE COUNCIL OF GOD**

**(1) *The prophet knows what God knows.*** We can never know what God knows exhaustively, but we can know what God knows when He tells us what he knows. That is the nature of *revelation*.

The prophet had a special position in which he participated in God’s deliberations and learned what God was thinking about particular situations. Cf. Amos 3.7

E.g., Abraham in Gen 18.16ff.; cp. Gen 20.7 - Abraham is a prophet.

E.g., Moses - Dt 34.10-12 - knows God face-to-face. Enters God’s council at Sinai; Exod 20, 24, 33.

E.g., Elijah, Elisha, Michaiah (1Kgs 22)

Jesus = *the* Prophet of whom Moses prophesied - Dt 18.15ff.; cp. Acts 3; cf. also John 6.14; 7.40

The Second Member of the Godhead, the Word, eternally existed in a face-to-face relationship with the Father (John 1.1). And this Word was made flesh in order that He might reveal the Father to us (John 1.18). Jesus puts Himself as the last of a long line of prophets in Mt 21.33-46 (cf. also Lk 13.33). Jesus stands in the council of God, learning the will of the Father.

**(2) *The prophet intercedes for others*** - Cf. Gen 20.7, “... for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you ...”

E.g., Moses after the golden calf incident; Exod 32ff.

One purpose of being in God’s council is for the sake of praying for others and affecting the future of those for whom you pray.

**B. STANDING BEFORE MEN**

**(1) *The prophet proclaims God’s Word*** - receive the word from God and take it to the people.

See again Deut 18.15ff. - God will put His words in the prophet’s mouth and he will speak to His people all that God has commanded him to speak (cf. Dt 18.15ff.).

Note: a prophet does not merely recite words exactly all the time (though he does do this at times). The prophet takes the word given to him by, lives with it, meditates upon it, and draws implications and applications from it that also carry the authority of God himself.

E.g., the book of Deuteronomy as a whole is the word of the prophet Moses. It is the recounting of the Law of God to the people of God 38 years after it was originally given. But it is not an exact replication of the Law given in Exodus.

**(2) *The prophet enacts God’s Word*** - Prophets “act out” God’s word.

E.g., Hosea marrying Gomer; Ezekiel baking unclean bread; John the Baptizer re-enacts the crossing of the Jordan in his baptism; Jesus eating with sinners; Jesus pronouncing judgment on the Temple driving out the money-changers.

The point is that prophets of God don’t simply proclaim God’s words from a distance without getting their hands dirty. They live out God’s word before the people to whom it is coming. They speak and act.

**2. THE HUSBAND AS PROPHET: STANDING BEFORE GOD AND HIS FAMILY**

**A. STANDING IN THE COUNCIL OF GOD**

**(1) *The husband must know what God knows*** - we find God's revelation in the Bible. That is where we enter God's council.

The husband must be a student of Scripture. Objections: "How can I do that? I am not a pastor or a teacher. I don't have the time to study like those men."

First, you do have a responsibility to know God's word. That is a non-negotiable. Cf. Dt 6; 1 Cor 14.35

Second, we need to understand that (a) we must be willing to commit the time to learning what we need to know. We find time many times for things we like to do or that are pressing. Might need to re-evaluate how we spend our time.

(b) We must be humble enough to admit that we don't know something and need to be instructed by others. That is, we cannot be know-it-all's. Be willing to say, "I don't know" so that you can learn.

Third, there are a multitude of ways in which you can be growing in your personal knowledge of the Scriptures and shaping your own worldview so that you can shape the worldview of your wife and children.

(a) The sermons and the notes from the sermons each week provide one resource. (b) Uses books and audio recordings.

**(2) *The husband must intercede for his family.*** Who knows your wife and children like you do? Who will pray for them with the specificity with which you can pray? Who knows the needs of your family better than you?

Wrestle with God for the sake of your wife. Pray that she will see the needs in her life that she needs to see, and that you will be the proper husband to her to help her with those things. Pray that God will give her strength.

Wrestle with God for the sake of your children. Pray earnestly for their faithfulness. Plead God's covenant promises on behalf of them. Call God to remember His covenant in prayer. This is the boldness in prayer that a prophet exhibits. He is not arrogant, but he is bold.

You are a prophet. Don't fail in your duty to pray for your wife and children. Stand before God in their behalf.

#### **B. STANDING BEFORE YOUR FAMILY**

**(1) *The husband is to proclaim God's word to his family.*** - Should be carried out in all of life, but does take particular focus at times. Leading wife and children to worship is primary.

There are "sit down" times of teaching and "informal" teaching moments when things arise.

One effective tool for fulfilling your responsibilities as the prophet in your home is to lead your family in *consistent* family devotions. (Note: I am not saying that this is the *only* way to instruct. I am saying that it is a very good way.)

Some suggestions: (1) ***plan a time and guard it.*** - This will not just "happen." This will take disciplined planning and guarding.

(2) ***Use prepared materials.*** - Use things from the liturgy; e.g., the confession of sin, the creeds, etc. You can teach them the Psalms we have been learning. Read the Scriptures.

One thing that is helpful is a consistent family liturgy. That way you are not always scrambling for materials.

These times don't have to be long, but they do need to be *consistent*. Consistently instruct your family. Develop the habit. It pays great dividends.

**(2) *The husband is to enact God's word.*** - Must "enact" the message, leading by example. Needs to be consistency between words and actions.