

## 6 LAYING DOWN ONE'S LIFE: THE BIBLICAL SERVANT LEADER

### Jesus, the ultimate example

#### Mark 10:43-45

<sup>43</sup>But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant and <sup>44</sup>whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.

#### John 6:38

<sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will who sent Me.

#### Hebrews 5:8-9

<sup>8</sup>Although He was a Son He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. <sup>9</sup>And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

#### 1 John 3:16

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

### The mission of a man: to follow Jesus' example by being a servant-leader in His marriage

#### Ephesians 5:23

<sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

### Ephesians 5:25-31

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her <sup>26</sup>so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by washing of water with the word <sup>27</sup>that He might present to Himself the church all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she be holy and blameless <sup>28</sup>. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; <sup>29</sup>for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ also <sup>30</sup>loves the church, because we are members of His body <sup>31</sup>FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

### Philippians 2:5-8

<sup>5</sup>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ, Jesus, <sup>6</sup>though He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant <sup>8</sup>being made in the likeness of men; <sup>8</sup>being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

### Hebrews 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

### 1 John 4:16-19

<sup>16</sup>We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him <sup>17</sup>by this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this <sup>18</sup>there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, one who fears is not perfected in <sup>19</sup>love, because He first loved us.

## The thoughts and actions of a servant-leader husband

- My wife's sanctification is her becoming more like Christ, not more like I.
- I may plant and water, but only God can cause growth to occur.
- The main ministry in my life is my wife's sanctification.
- I am working to help her be more consistent in the Word (God's tool to sanctify her).
- I am working hard to know and obey God's Word so I can honor God and so I can be of benefit to my wife.
- I am involved in her life in areas where she is attempting to put off sin on righteousness.
- I pray for her.
- I initiate time of talking openly so I can know her heart, her struggles, her victories and so I can encourage and strengthen her.
- I know her and am working with her to become more like Christ.
- I do lead her. I am not afraid to speak the truth even when she opposes me.
- My motive is to obey and honor God as a husband.
- I seek to love her sacrificially the way Christ loves me.
- I do my work heartily for the Lord, not for men.
- More than my glory or honor, my purpose in work is to provide for my wife.
- I am thankful for my job because it is God's chosen tool for me to provide for her.
- Since Jesus is my example and He was perfect, I know I will not follow His example exactly. Nevertheless, because it is God's will for me, I will follow Christ's example of love and service.
- When I do sin, I will openly confess my sin and ask forgiveness first from them my wife.
- I think about how I can humble myself, empty myself and be obedient to God to the ultimate degree because that was Christ's attitude.
- When there are conflicts in my marriage, winning the fight or hurting her or making her pay for sin by being angry or cold will be replaced by resolving conflicts biblically.
- When my wife sins against me I will not take sin into account against me. I will point her to God's way of resolving conflicts.
- By God's grace I will expend great effort to lay aside sin and run this race with endurance.
- I will spend daily time in the Word so that I can fix my eyes on Jesus.
- I will be an example of a man who obeys God.
- Some days will be hard. I purpose to view them in relation to the day I will face God face to face so I will not grow weary and lose heart, but rather endure like Jesus did.
- I will not compromise my commitment to Christ when my wife opposes it.
- I thank God that because of His love I do not fear the Day of Judgment.
- Because God loves me, I seek to love my wife in the same way.

- I will find ways to express love and care.
- I will spend time and energy to be a blessing to my bride.
- There will be great times alone together, when she is loved and cared for.
- There will be the example of a strong man of faith when circumstances are harsh.
- There will be frequent times of talking and listening at the heart level.
- There will be hugs and back massages and gentle kisses.
- There will be words of love and appreciation.
- There will be words of strong faith and hope from God's Word.

See Appendix 1: Hope From God's Word

See Appendix 2: Husband Study + Journal