

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

June 21, 2015 – Father's Day Message

Background: God gave man the orders to subdue, to rule.

Genesis 1:26 ***Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth and over all the creatures that move along the ground."***

Genesis 2:15 ***The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*** (Man's identity is linked to work) MEN have a God given desire to rule and to work.

The Curse after Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree

Genesis 3:16 ***To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband (Eve will have the desire to rule over man), and he will rule (have responsibility) over you."***

Genesis 3:17 ***To Adam, He said, "Because you listened (when you only listen and do not listen and lead) to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life."***

Man's work environment is cursed that the more you work – all you are gonna do is die, (God has a way of giving us what we want). Eve wanted to be in charge, so God said I will put that desire in you, yet it won't happen, you will be frustrated in this desire.

Example: People way I want to get as far from God as possible. Hell is separation from God for eternity.

So men go out and even though half of the marriages end in divorce, we still get married and while jobs are tough, we still want to work.

Principle: The relationship or environment that makes men feel most competent will ultimately capture their hearts, time and attention. MEN are acceptance magnets.

Example: If a man feels competent and respected at work and not at home, he will want to spend more time at work than at home.

Reverse the Curse: Three things to reverse the curse (because I think I know how men are wired, if you are single, use these to look for the right spouse).

1. **Listen to him** (very important) We listen to people who we feel have something important to say or who know more than us. When you listen to your husband, you're saying he is important. Melissa Sands – Mistresses Anonymous – men talk endlessly. #1 reason men have a mistress is the need to communicate, their wives don't take time to listen (early morning rush, late night tired) WHY – when you listen you are saying your husband is competent to lead. HOW to listen, when men talk they are not interested in answers...If you are constantly "fixing your husband's problems" he will eventually quit talking about them ...
 - a. **Appreciate our struggle**
 - b. **Tell us we can handle it**

2. **Follow him** *Eph. 5:22-24 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

Paul never tells men to lead in their homes, he tells women to submit or allow them to lead. Why? Because it's built into men to want to lead (God made us that way). All that needs to happen is you submit to his leadership...not because men are smarter, we know that we're not...

Ladies: When you become better followers, your husband will become a better leader. When men drop the reins, it's natural for women to want to pick them up.

Ladies, create a gap in which there is space to lead. It's in men to lead, but they need the space. If you step back and let men have the space they will begin to lead in your home and in your relationship.

To submit to your husband is to give him space to lead.

It means never picking up the reins when he drops them (ladies will often say, 'If I don't do it, it won't done), then the Bible says leave it undone, until you give him space to lead. God can't produce in your husband what he wants to do. You have to know that you married an imperfect leader, but you make him better by giving him room to lead. For some of you this is very hard, almost like saying 'don't breathe.'

- 3. Admire him.** Definition – “to wonder at, marvel at, esteem highly, take pleasure in” Something men never grow out of, we dream of scoring the winning touchdown, and we look over to the stands and wink at the girl of our dreams. Men want to win your admiration...

There are women out there who will win the admiration of your husband...

Push the admiration button: appearance - he will act like it's no big deal, but trust me it is. Brains, competence at work – your husband needs to hear that you appreciate what he does. Physical strength – we know we are not strong, but tell us anyway.

MOST women have no idea how powerful these things are.

God has not called you to change your husband, he has called you to change you, and the way you do that is give God the room to work in your husband's life by following him.

You do these things and you will take so much pressure off your husband and draw his heart toward you and your home.

This takes time, it won't happen in a few days or weeks. But LISTEN, FOLLOW and ADMIRE and you will see a change in the men in your life.

Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.