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**Husband  
and Father  
– *Dare to  
Lead***

Tell joke about George Washington pushing out house in river.

A Man may be the head of the family, but the wife is the neck who turns the head.

Leadership is needed from men.  
This is the power to serve.

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**Ephesians 5:25**  
Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

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**Ephesians 5:33**  
So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

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Lead by Loving –  
Leadership as a  
Husband

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Love your wife  
as Christ loved  
the church.

We get the wrong idea about leadership in the home. The man saying, “I’m the boss, the king. It’s my way or the highway.” This is not about dominating power, “power over”, demanding my rights – I’m the king – “Serve Me.”

How did Christ love the Church? He laid down his life. This was not only a certain event, but also his whole lifestyle – love that sacrifices at cost to itself. This is not just about protecting your family or some heroic act.

This is the power to serve. This “power under” – using our power the way that Christ did – it sacrificial, serving love. Husband, if you lead in that way, your spouse will be eager to follow you.

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It's more  
about giving of  
yourself every  
day.

Washing the dishes, when you'd rather watch TV  
Spending time with your child in ***their*** world – playing ball, or just hanging out.

Some advice: If you're not interested in giving of yourself unselfishly and consistently, then marriage is not for you. This is what it takes.

Need some company? Get a dog, a goldfish or a cat.

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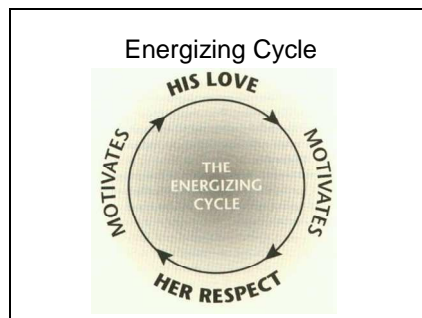
For your wife, love is spelled C-O-U-P-L-E

- **Ephesians 5:33** *So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

Notice the verse in Eph 5:33 is a command. That means we do this when we feel like it AND when we don't

From Counselor, Dr. Emerson Eggerich, in *Love and Respect*.

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How to Spell Love  
to Your Wife –  
C-O-U-P-L-E

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- **C**loseness – She wants you to be close.
- **O**penness – She wants you to open up to her.
- **U**nderstanding – Don't try to fix her; Just listen.

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- **P**eacemaking - She wants you to say "I'm sorry".
- **L**oyalty – She needs to know you're committed.
- **E**steem – She wants you to honor and cherish her.

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Lead by Example  
– Leadership as  
a Father

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**Ephesians 6:4**  
**(Message)**

Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. **Take them by the hand and lead them** in the way of the Master.

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**Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go. Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

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“The Little Chap That  
Follows Me”  
by John Wooden

Who knows who John Wooden is? From the midwest – began his coaching career here – but became perhaps the most successful coach EVER. Won 8 NCAA championships in 10 year. Won 7 in a row. An incredible leader.

But more than than that, a devoted follower of Jesus Christ who openly shared his faith. He was also a devoted husband and father.

He passed away this month – June 4 – at the age of 99. Last year he said he planned to live to 100. When asked why he said, “Because my driver’s license is good til then, and I want to get my money’s worth.

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A careful man I must  
always be;  
A little fellow follows me.  
I know I dare not go astray  
For fear he’ll go the self  
same way.

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I cannot once escape  
his eyes,  
What'er he sees me do,  
he tries.  
Like me he says he's  
going to be;  
This little chap who  
follows me.

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He thinks that I am good  
and fine,  
Believes in every word  
of mine.  
The base in me he must  
not see;  
This little chap who  
follows me.

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I must be careful as I go  
Through summer's sun  
and winter's snow,  
Because I am building for  
the years to be;  
This little chap who  
follows me.

This poem's about a Father and son,  
but of course it also applies to a  
daughter.

My father has been my life's greatest  
influence.  
In particular, he didn't do anything  
spectacularly. Honestly, it's hard for me  
to think of any particular thing.

**Mostly, he showed up.**

He set the **example** of going to church.  
He served others.

He sacrificed financially and  
consistently gave financially.

He wasn't particularly profound; but he  
was **present**.

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Lead with  
*Intentness* -  
Step up to the  
Plate

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Set the pace for  
spiritual things in  
the home.

According to the Bible, although the church can be an essential support, **the family is the main place** for spiritual focus.

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Don't worry  
about doing  
it perfectly.

I remembered piled up on my parents pull-out couch. Their bedroom doubled as our den. Dad would call us 5 kids in for "Bible Reading" before bedtime. Sometimes half asleep. Often struggling to pronounce the names of the missionaries with birthdays. Stumbling through reading the scripture passage or devotional thought. Sometimes my sister's would even be using this ridiculous hair dryer – this big poofy thing on their head – hair done up in rollers. GIVE ME A BREAK. Sometimes they'd be doing their nails. This was really a spiritual exercise. Sometimes my mother's prayers were so long that she'd fall asleep during them. Slacking off as we teenage years approached, and teens wanted their

own space.

But this time had a profound effect on me.

A strong husband and father sets the pace for the family.

Take the initiative to lead.

We're talking about being active, not passive.

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Wife, resist making your husband your "*home improvement project*." A husband needs a wife who believes in him and respects him even when far from perfect.

Most (all) men are a work in progress – far from perfect.

Your respect nurtures the qualities in him that you long to see.

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## Practice Intentness

What is intentness? Determined focus. John Wooden had this to say about leading in this way:

"The road to ... is usually bumpy and long, but you do not give up. You may have setbacks. You may have to start over. You may have to change your method. You may have to go around, or over, or under. You may have to back up and get another start. But you do not quit. You stay the course. To do that, you must have intentness."

"Here's a little example of what I

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Leave a legacy  
by daring to lead  
as a husband  
and father!

mean. In 1948, I began coaching basketball at UCLA. Each hour of practice we worked very hard. Each day we worked very hard. Each week we worked very hard. Each season we worked very hard. For fourteen years we worked very hard and didn't win a national championship. However, a national championship was won in the fifteenth year. Another national championship was won in the sixteenth year. And eight more national championships were won in the following ten years."

Keep at it – be determined - imperfect though your efforts may be. As my good friend and mentor, Dr. Keith Parks used to say, "God can still hit a straight lick, with a crooked stick."

Look around you.

In 10 to 20 years many of us in this room will be gone.

In 50 years very few will have any active memory of us.

So what lasts? Our investment in and influence on others. This is our true legacy.

Being a mother or father is a powerful way to do that. The example of love in respect you show as husband and wife powerfully influence our children as well as others. Even if you don't have children, each person can have a lasting influence on the younger generation – your spiritual children in a sense.

Step up – set an example – dare to lead and leave a legacy.

