

How I lead my wife.

The following are a set of practices I do as a husband to lead my wife in a godly way. Each comes with a brief explanation. This list is by no means complete, nor the explanations comprehensive, but I believe it is detailed enough to explain how godly leadership works in a New Covenant marriage, as well as provide a few detailed ideas for others. I hope that you find it nourishing:

Provide needs: I provide for her physical needs by working and providing financial resources. I provide for her emotional needs by expressing my love for her every day and expressing what a godly wife she is. I consider these both to be my job and I have no real excuses for not doing them. I'd encourage everyone else to see it the same way.

Establish the order in marriage: I explained to my wife before we were married what the biblical order is, with man leading and woman submitting. Since she was from a traditional culture, this was nothing either new or shocking to her. Obviously there is a conscience clause, as I and nearly anyone else would explain obedience; she can respectfully choose to disobey a command to do something intrinsically evil. Otherwise life is very simple. Obey means obey. You can look it up in the dictionary. I encourage this obedience and I'd say facilitate it by promoting a simple philosophy – there is no such thing as “no” from a wife. That is the philosophy in our home. It is biblical. It leads to great peace and harmony between us. I would love to see it bless many other marriages out there in the world.

Uphold the Order: Upholding the order follows naturally with establishing it. So just as in many areas of leadership, I put into practice a few ways that both symbolically and practically maintain the headship and submission that we practice in obedience to God. One simple one, that nearly everyone knows, is to have the head seat at the table. It's a symbolic seat which represents the leadership position. Another, less well known in this culture, is to make sure she does not walk ahead of me or wander off when we are out going places. A third would be that she makes sure not to interrupt me, and when we are speaking jointly with a business person that she follows my lead in those conversations and does not take over the conversation. This is not thorough, but they are helpful tools in marriage and I'd recommend them to anyone.

Lead religious life: I plan the religious life in the home. Since I am Jewish and she is Gentile, I let her know before marriage that I celebrate the Savior within what is mostly the Hebrew system of worship days. I explained how important it is for Jewish people to keep the ways God gave them and to have a Jewish home. So she joined in with that way of life, just as Ruth joined in with Boaz. I also plan the household Bible readings and times for prayers. Since she is new to the faith, I give her readings to do in scripture, though as she grows in faith I do this less, and she chooses her own more. I also plan times for private confessions before God, even though we can do this independently also as we choose.

Along with organizing the home worship, I explain scripture as best I can to my wife and explain the theology and morals connected with it. I have found this opportunity to explain indispensable in helping her follow my lead in multiple areas of life. Just as the Lord does with us, we wish to lead the heart, and have a true loyal obedience from our sheep. A heart pointed in the same direction. Not a mere obedience. I've found that explaining as best I can from scripture encourages that greater form of following from her. After all, once we understand why something is good, it is far easier and more pleasurable to do it.

Lead Morally: Leading in the home obviously includes making the right moral decision for the home. This is often in contrast with the prevailing culture. For example, I have made the moral decision to follow biblical instructions and have my wife take care of the household. It is an immense, important job. She does it very well. In fact in the section of Kodesh Kallah entitled "Clothed in Scarlet" I will put an essay describing all of her work. Another moral decision I've made, based both on biblical principles and natural law, was to give up the popular evil of contraception, and live a life without it. Contraception, as has been taught from the beginning, is in itself an immoral practice, and it has also caused demonstrable harm to our nation. I made the moral decision to get rid of any we had, and to accept the children that God blesses us with. There are other examples of my moral leadership as a husband I could offer, but those are two of the largest.

Set rules: Since I head the home, I set rules for my wife and for the house. Even before we were married, I started setting standards for modesty, for example. Shortly after I was born again and began to look for a wife, clothing was an issue which repeatedly came up. If I met with a woman and she was dressed in the modern way which shows a lot of skin, I would politely let

her know that next time we meet I'd like her to cover up. My standards have grown since then, and I set a standard for my wife which is similar to traditional standards of modesty as well as femininity. Clothing should cover neck to ankle, and should be either skirts or dresses, loose fitting, not see through. Other rules I set are promptness -- I expect her to be on time when we need to meet -- and security -- I expect all of the windows closed and locked by a certain hour. My wife, being godly, sincerely seeks to follow these rules. She nearly always succeeds.

Monitor and Correct Her: Being a homemaker means being manager of multiple complex projects. As the husband of a homemaker, I have neither the inclination nor the energy to micromanage all that goes on. However I do monitor it, and supervise, much in the way a CEO might oversee managers of this and of that. I give general instructions of what we need. I set general limitations on the project. I also have her report to me once a week with her responsibilities, and communicate what they are, which have been completed and which still need to be done. Beyond that, she is more or less autonomous in her work.

I also correct her mistakes, when they come up, and correct her if her attitude and behavior is poor towards me. Monitoring these things and correcting a wife when she starts to slip in her duties saves A LOT of trouble down the road. Monitoring and correction have been a godsend for us; my wife manages affairs excellently, and behaves obediently towards her husband. When she has needed correction, she has accepted it gracefully, which of course is not easy for anyone on the planet to do. I would hold her up as an example to many. Bless the Lord.