

Dad—Spiritual Leader

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I. Introduction.

- A. It is not clear what it means to be a spiritual leader although we all want that from men.
- B. Text: Ephesians 5.
- C. We need to be careful setting up a false expectation for spiritual leadership.
- D. There is a tendency to do spiritual things but miss the primary responsibility of being the head of one's home.

II. Positional aspect of spiritual leadership.

- A. Spiritual leadership is a position that has been assigned to men regardless of status.
- B. Men are the head of a household no matter how well they lead.
- C. Men are head of the home by appointment just as God appointed Christ head of the church.
- D. The ramifications.
 - 1. Men are responsible for everything that happens in the home.
 - 2. Men are not to blame for everything, but they are responsible for it all.
 - 3. There is something in us that does not want to take responsibility.
- E. Men who do not take responsibility are not respected. When men lose respect, they lose influence.
- F. You know when you have delegated responsibility...
 - 1. When you blame others for the problems in the home.
 - 2. When you allow your wife to take the blame for family problems.
 - 3. When you do not listen.

III. Practical aspect of spiritual leadership.

- A. As wives submit, husbands are to respond in love.
- B. To love is the greater responsibility—we are to love as Christ did sacrificially.
- C. Husbands are to love their wives as their own body—one's wife is to be put first.

D. Women respond to love.

Application questions:

1. What are some misconceptions about spiritual leadership?

2. What does it look like to take responsibility?

3. Why is love so critical from a husband? Explain.
