

# Linking Church and Home for Discipleship

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# Pastor/Elder

Hebrews 13:17— *“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”*

# Husband

Ephesians 5:25-28— *“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”*

# Father

**Ephesians 6:4**— *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*

# Watchman

*Ezekiel 3:17-19— “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”*

# Christ the Standard for Headship

## HUSBAND

**Union of Husband and Wife**

5:28, 5:31

**He is her protector** 5:22,29

**Wife submits in everything to  
her husband** 5:22,24

**Called to give himself up for his  
wife** 5:25

**Pursues sanctification of his wife**  
5:26,27

**Nourishes and cherishes his wife**  
5:29

## CHRIST

**Union of Christ and Church** 5:22

**He is her Savior** 5:22

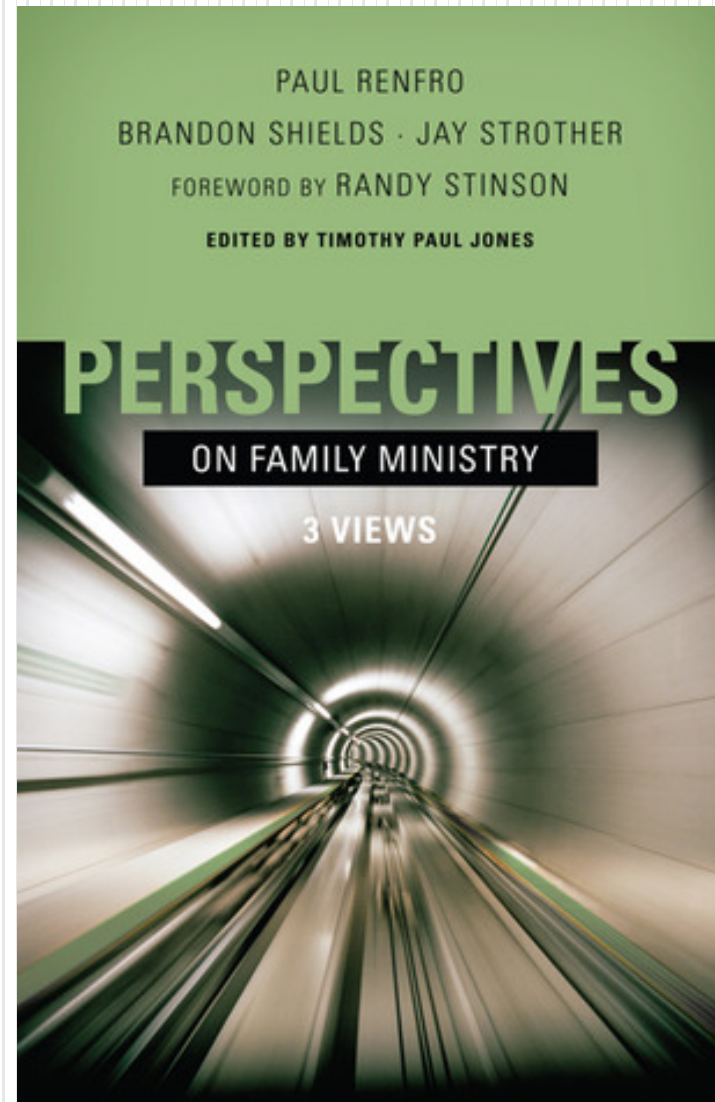
**The church submits in  
everything to Christ** 5:22, 24

**Gave Himself up for the church**  
5:25

**Pursues sanctification of His  
church** 5:26,27

**Nourishes and cherishes the  
church** 5:29

**Models  
for  
Discipleship  
of  
Children  
and  
Youth**



# Models for Discipleship of Children and Youth

1. Church-Based
2. Family-Integrated
3. Family-Based
4. Family-Equipping Ministry Model
5. Parent-Church Partnership



# Parallel Pattern Between Church and Home

## 1. Headship

*“Wives, submit to your own **husbands**, as to the **Lord**. For the husband is head of the wife even as **Christ is the head of the church**, his body, and is himself its Savior.” Eph. 5:22-23*

*“...wives should submit in everything to their husbands.” Eph. 5:24*

# Pattern Applied to the Church

## Headship

### “One body”

*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 5:31-32*

*“This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” 3:6*

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*“...that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross..” 2:5-16*

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*“There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call--one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all and through all and in all.” 4:4-6*

# Pattern Applied to the Church

Headship

One body”

## Family Terms

- “In love, he predestined us for **adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ...” 1:4-5
- “In him we have obtained an **inheritance...**” 1:11
- “...the Gentiles are fellow **heirs..**” 3:6
- “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household** of God.” 5: 19
- “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every **family** in heaven and on earth is named” 3:14-15

# Pattern Applied to the Church

Headship

One body

Family Terms

## Family Titles

- one God and **Father** of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 4:6
- until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the **Son** of God 4:13
- Tychicus the beloved **brother** and faithful minister in the Lord 6:21
- Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved **children**. 5:1

# Biblical Parallels Between Church and Home

## HOUSEHOLD

1. United as one “flesh”
2. Under headship of the husband
3. Obedience, submission to husband/parents
4. Responsibility of husband/father to instruct, care for, nourish, “shepherd”

## CHURCH

1. United in one “body”
2. Under headship of Christ
3. Obedience, submission to elders/leaders
4. Responsibility of leaders to instruct, care for, nourish, “shepherd”

# Implications

1. The foundation for the home is the Gospel
2. The church may be overlooking an untapped asset for shepherding and discipleship.
3. The husband **IS** the head of his wife and his household



# The Husband's Great Indicative: Inescapable Headship

“The husband is the head of his wife and that is a universal fact. This is not an ideal or something to aspire to but a statement of fact. When Paul said, “the husband is the head of the wife” he did not mean that he ought to be the head, but that he already is. He may be a contemptible, unworthy head, but he still remains the head. He cannot escape this office, no more than he can escape the fact that he is a male. He may neglect his headship; he may ignore his headship, he may abuse his headship yet he is still the head.”

Daniel Patz: The Husband's Great Indicative: Inescapable Headship

“As the head, the man’s actions always dominate (dominion of the head) the marriage relationship. He may live a life of sacrificial love, cherishing and nurturing his wife, yet his action of love dominates the relationship --usually setting a beautiful and harmonious course.

He may escape the relationship, yet it is his action of escape, which dominates the relationship.

He may neglect his role of loving leadership and allow his wife to usurp his role, yet it is his action of neglect and spinelessness that is really controlling the relationship.”

Daniel Patz: The Husband’s Great Indicative: Inescapable Headship

“Given that the husband is the head of the wife, he is always responsible for what happens in the marriage relationship. The husband is the “buck-stopper” and the “rudder-setter.” If there are problems in the marriage he is always responsible. Yes, always responsible! The husband may not always be guilty, but the weight of responsibility still lies upon his ‘headship’.

As Douglas Wilson states – ‘without this understanding of responsibility, authority becomes meaningless and tyrannical.’ When the husband takes the covenant-oath to be the husband, he assumes responsibility. This means that “men whether through tyranny or abdication, are responsible for any problems in the home” (Wilson, *Reforming Marriage*, 33).

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1. The foundation for the home is the Gospel
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3. The husband IS the head of his wife and his household”
4. **The vision and agenda for our household should be parallel the vision and agenda for the church**

# Vision and Agenda Parallel

1:15-19—I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers--**that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you**

3:16-19 for this reason--**strengthened with power through the spirit in your inner beings**

4:11-14 He gave apostles, prophets...to **equip the saints** for the work—building up, unity of faith, mature manhood...

4:15-16 **speaking the truth in love...growing up into Christ, building itself up in love.**

4:20-24 —**To learn Christ, to be taught in Christ to put off the old self, be renewed, put on the new self.**

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5. **Effective leadership at home is a prerequisite for effective leadership in the church and heads of households should aspire to the standards set for leaders in the church**

# Prerequisite for Leadership

## 1 Timothy 3:1-7

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **He must manage his own household well**, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for **if someone does not know how to manage his own household**, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

# Prerequisite for Leadership

- **Titus 1:6-9** “...if anyone is above reproach, **the husband of one wife, and his children are believers** and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”



# Implications

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6. **The home is the basic unit of discipleship in the church**

# Home: Basic Unit of Discipleship

- **Small groups are important structures for adult shepherding and discipleship that cannot be replaced by a family structure.**
- **Unlike small group leaders, husbands and fathers have a calling on their lives to shepherd and disciple their family whether they want it or not (Psalm 78:5-8; Ephesians 5:22-24, 6:1-3). God has assigned it.**
- **The union of husband and wife and the formation of a family were intended by God to be the context for passing His commands (Deuteronomy 6:6-9), his word, (Deuteronomy 11:18-21), his testimony (Psalm 78:5-8) from one generation to the next.**
- **Therefore it is fitting that a structure for shepherding and discipleship in the church reflects the importance of the household in the sense that we have just seen.**

# Implications

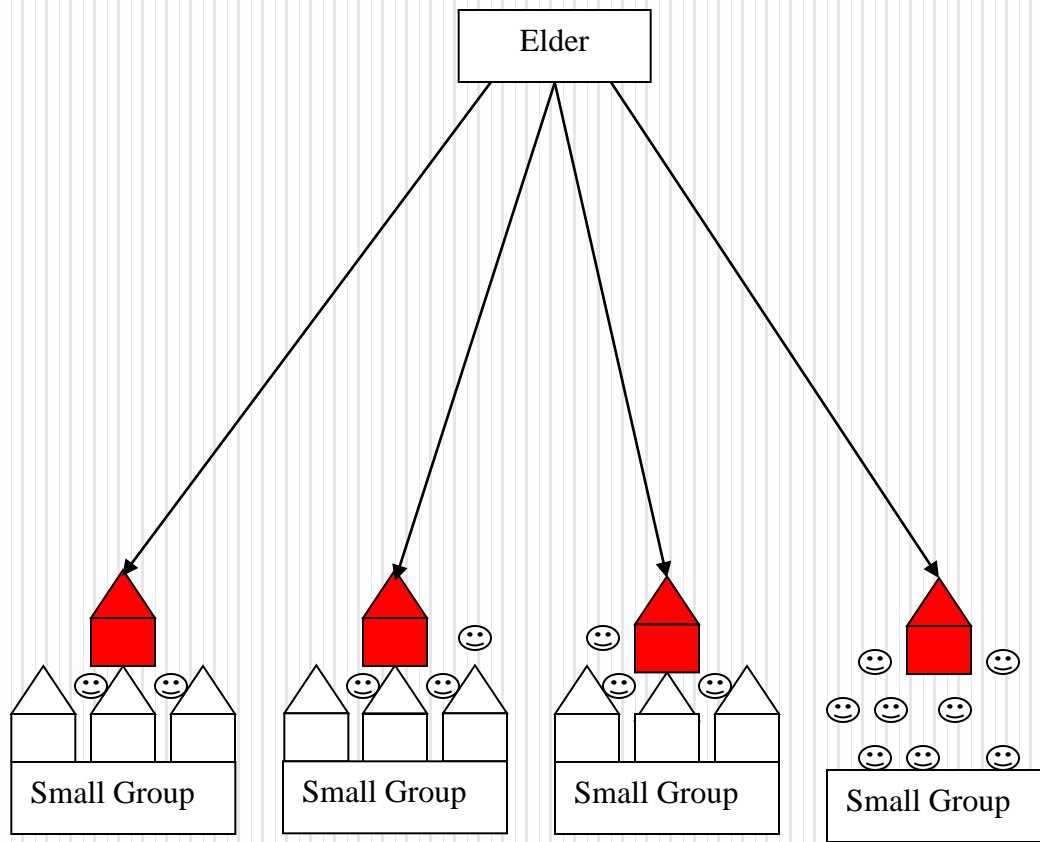
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7. **Husbands/fathers are shepherds**

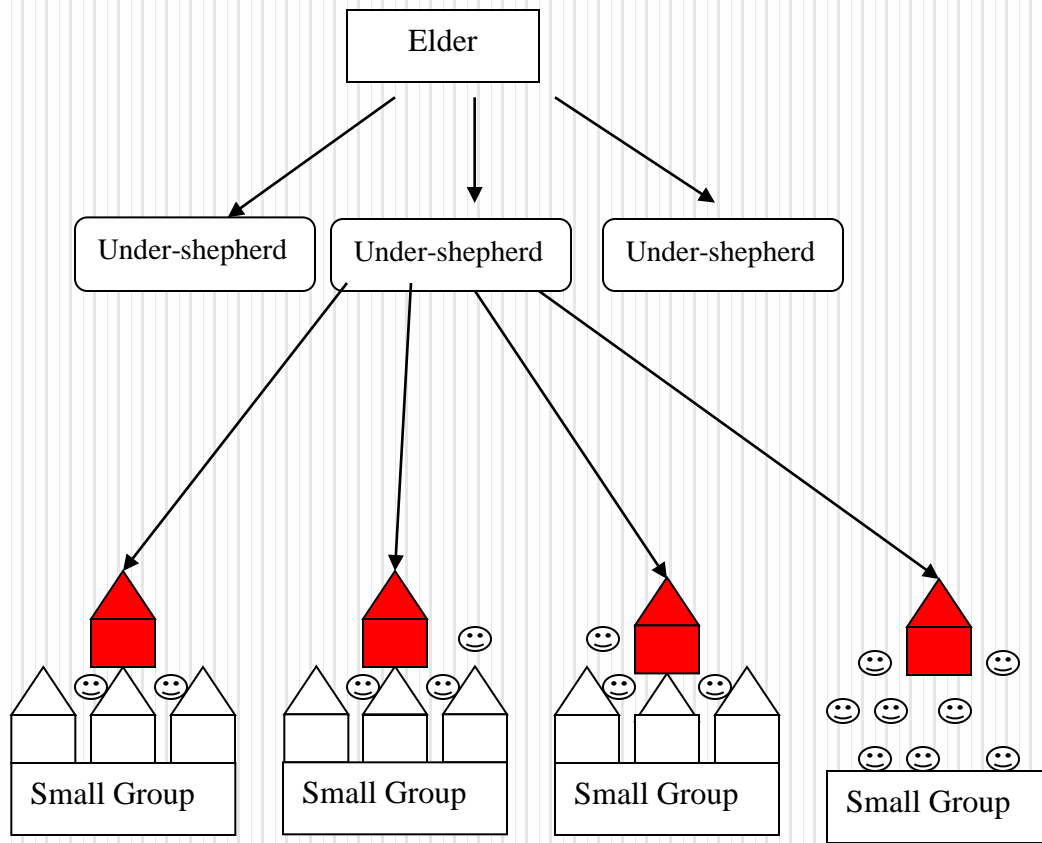
# Husbands and Fathers are Shepherds

- **Loving his wife and children sacrificially and cherishing her as a reflection of the love of Christ for the church** (Ephesians 5:25, 29; 6:4).
- **Being alert to and discerning of the spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical needs, of his family and make the effort to meet those needs—directly or indirectly** (Hebrews 3:12–13; 1 Peter 3:7).
- **Praying regularly and earnestly for his family** (Genesis 25:21; 1 Timothy 2:8; 1 Peter 3:7).
- **Seeking to build his wife and children up with biblical knowledge, including both his own speech and his encouragement to connect them with the teaching ministries provided by the church** (John 8:32; Ephesians 4:25-30).

# Husbands and Fathers are Shepherds

- **Encouraging and helping his family engage in ministry at church and in the world**  
(Proverbs 31:20; Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 5:9-10).
- **Bringing Christ near in practical and verbal ways**  
(1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Corinthians 4:5-6).
- **Setting the spiritual tone of the household**  
(Colossians 3:19, 21).
- **Forging a family identity**  
(Joshua 24:15)
- **Modeling godliness, Christian grace and strength and the fruits of the Spirit in all the spheres of life** (Galatians 5:16, 22-23; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Peter 1:3-8).





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