



# THE SEVIERVILLE SOWER

*Sowing the seed (Luke 8:11) into the hearts of mankind.*

Sevierville Church of Christ | 208 Hicks Drive | Sevierville, TN 37862 | (865) 453-8009 | [seviervillecoc.org](http://seviervillecoc.org)

April 17, 2022

## A Husband's Role and Responsibilities

*Chad Dollahite*

**M**arriage is the oldest human institution on earth, being nearly as old as mankind. The Bible gives humans “*all things that pertain to life and godliness*” (2 Peter 1:3), so (as with any subject pertaining to life and godliness) those seeking to understand their roles and responsibilities in marriage must go to God’s word. Marriages all over the world fail at an alarming rate and, while the reasons are many, it truly is the case that many fail due to a breakdown on the part of husbands relative to the Creator’s instructions about their role and responsibilities. What does God’s word teach concerning the role and responsibilities of husbands? This article answers the question with four key words: **leave, love, lead, and learn.**

**Leave.** God’s instruction to both husbands and wives at the beginning of marriage is to leave all others for one another (detailed in Genesis 2:21-24). God says, “*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh*” (Genesis 2:24), and Jesus reiterates the command in Matthew 19:4-5. No human being is to come before or have priority over one’s spouse. This includes self! Paul’s command, “*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself*” (Philippians 2:3) is applicable in marriage also. In getting married, both husband and wife are committing to forsake all others—including self—for one another. When a couple is united in marriage, the concepts of “I,” “me,” and “mine” are replaced with “we,” “us,” and “ours.” The husband and wife are a team, or “*one flesh*” (Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:31).

**Love.** How are husbands to love their wives? First, husbands should love their wives emotionally. In Ephesians 5:25-33, Paul teaches the emotional, sacrificial love a husband is to have for his wife. Paul says husbands are to love their wives “*just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her*” (Ephesians 5:25). He says a husband ought to love his wife “*as himself*” (Ephesians 5:33). The emotional aspect of love leads a husband to cherish his wife. A man who sacrificially loves his wife as Christ loves the church is a man imitating Jesus. Husbands should also love their wives physically. Paul deals with husbands’ and wives’ responsibility pertaining to physical intimacy in 1 Corinthians 7:3-5. Physical love goes beyond sexual activity, however, and may include holding hands, hugs, a hello/goodbye kiss, etc. There is something powerful about human touch; humans need it, and husbands owe it to their wives. Good, godly husbands love their wives, both emotionally and physically.

**Lead.** The Bible plainly teaches “*the husband is the head of the wife*” (Ephesians 5:23), but many men either do not know or do not care what it means to be the head (or leader) of his home. While God grants the title “head” to the husband, he must earn the respect of that title. Leadership begins with example. Godly husbands lead by example, and they see the big picture—getting to heaven. They understand that getting to heaven and helping their wives to do so as well is a truly successful life. From 1 Peter 3:7, the husband is to “*dwell with*” his wife, “*giving honor*” to her “*as to the weaker vessel*.” He leads with permanence and presence, letting her know he is committed to her and their marriage, that he will not leave or forsake her, and that he will be present and involved. He leads by honoring his bride, praising her often, both privately and publicly. He leads his wife by protecting her and providing for her, “*as to the weaker vessel*.” From Ephesians 6:4, a godly husband leads by taking responsibility for bringing up his children “*in the training and admonition of the Lord*.” Mothers should be involved in the spiritual upbringing of children also, but the husband is to take the lead in that effort. Looking at our ultimate example, Jesus (1 Peter 2:21), true leadership is servant leadership. Faithful Christian husbands who are servant leaders in their homes are bound to be good husbands.

**Learn.** Peter tells husbands to dwell with their wives “*with understanding*” (1 Peter 3:7), meaning a husband needs to know and understand his wife. Understanding his wife means the husband must spend time with her, listen to her, observe her, and pay attention to what she likes/does not like. Likewise, he must open up to his wife and share his own thoughts, hopes, dreams, fears—his entire world—with her. This requires communication (especially since women are designed with a greater need for communication). A husband who fails to work at knowing his wife simply is not fulfilling his role as a husband.

Most, if not all, of the role and responsibilities of husbands can be summed up in these four words: **leave, love, lead, and learn.** These instructions are easy to understand, but not always easy to apply. Yet, these are commandments from God, not suggestions or requests. Godly husbands leave all others and put no other human before their wives, love their wives as Christ loves the church, lead their wives with servant leadership, and work tirelessly to know and understand their wives. Husbands who truly want a blessed marriage and a little taste of heaven here on earth will put forth the effort to apply these concepts.

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

Dawn Sutton had successful cancer surgery and continues her recovery. Last week she received the wonderful news that all the removed lymph nodes tested negative for cancer.

Remember in prayer Shawna Langston who has been recovering from an acute upper respiratory infection.

Sue Roberts reported that her husband, Bobby, is in Smoky Mountain Rehab. He is weak and fell twice recently and broke a bone in his leg. Also, Sue is suffering with a pinched nerve in her back.

Remember in prayer Lenwood Johnson's sister, Becky Day, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

Lyn Morris has been having problems with significant drops in her blood sugar. Also, her brother, Jim Cochran, fell recently and broke his hip and the socket.

Please pray for Chris Bender who had a biopsy recently and saw a surgeon to have tumors removed. Pre-cancerous growth was found and treatment will be needed.

Continue to pray for the Christians in Ukraine.

### Continue to Remember...

Chris Bender, Andy Butts, John and Helen Carr, Connie Duncan, Dennis and Marty Danilchuk, Lindsey Johnson, Shirley McKnight, Sue Moore, Lyn Morris, Paul and Ellen Ostrander, Joanne Roark, Shirley Yeager, Penny Douglas (John and Helen Carr's niece), Becky Duncan (Joe and Connie's daughter-in-law), Belinda Lang (Kevin's aunt), Adam Lane (son-in-law of Vickie Price), Harlie McClung (John and Helen Carr's 12 year-old great-granddaughter), Anita Ogle (Sherry Simms' friend), Casie Rains (friend of the Hansens), Paul Rolan (Mary Kate's brother), Betty & Frankie Simms (Scott Simms' parents), Wayne Tart (Tammie Fish's brother).

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**Ladies' class Thursdays at 6:15 at the Hansen's house**

**Monthly afternoon song service: April 24**

**Fellowship lunch: May 1**

**Fellowship night: May 20, 6:30**

## Evangelism Materials

Extra supplies for our evangelism work are freely available in the supply room to our members. Instructional books, DVDs, and Bible study materials are available. We also have a variety of cards for our Compassion Card work.

## Weekly Assemblies

**Sunday:** Bible Study ..... 9 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10 a.m.  
Worship ..... 1 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Bible Class ..... 7 p.m.

## Joel 1:3 – Parental Responsibility

Wayne Jackson

“Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation” (Joel 1:3).

The prophecies of Joel were occasioned by a devastating plague of locust that recently had come upon the land of Canaan. Joel, a Judean prophet under the guidance of God's Spirit, interpreted the locust plague as a vivid picture of the kind of judgment that would be visited upon mankind in “the day of the Lord” — a predominant theme in this book. The coming judgment should be an incentive to repentance.

In the first portion of his prophecy, Joel urges the elders of the land to consider the horrible plague that had descended upon the land. Nothing in their memories could rival it.

More importantly, the vivid lessons learned from the devastation must be passed on to future generations. “Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation,” he declared.

One is reminded of the admonition of the psalmist when he announced that God had “appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, even the children that should be born; who should arise and tell them to their children ...” (Psalm 78:5, 6).

Each generation is responsible for its own conduct (God has no grandchildren), but certainly we can influence, for good or bad, those who come after us (cf. Exodus 20:5-6). Block off Joel 1:3, and in your margin remind yourself: *Parental responsibility to teach children.*

### Elders

Randy Hansen, Robert Moore, Kevin Ruiz, and Jerry Sutton

### Deacon

Lenwood Johnson (finance)

### Preacher

Kevin Ruiz