



WEEK 6

1ST SEMESTER · FOUNDATION & IDENTITY

The Man as a Leader

Responsibility in Family & Faith – What Godly Manhood Looks Like

SPIRITUAL THEME

**The Man as a Leader –
Responsibility in Family & Faith**

PERSONAL THEME

**What does godly manhood look
like?**

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Bwembe, Uganda · A project of Get it Done – direkte Entwicklungshilfe

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Spiritual Theme: The Man as a Leader – Responsibility in Family & Faith

Personal Theme: What does Godly Manhood look like?

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 5:21–33; 1 Timothy 3:1–7

1. Introduction: Leadership is Service, Not Power

In many cultures, "manhood" is seen as having power, making all the rules, and being served by others. But in the Kingdom of God, leadership is upside down. Jesus said, "*The greatest among you will be your servant*" (Matthew 23:11).

A Christian leader in Uganda—whether in the home or the church—is not a dictator. He is a shepherd. His strength is not used to push others down, but to lift his family up and protect them.

2. Deep Dive: Ephesians 5:21–33

Let's look closely at what the Holy Spirit says through Paul about how a man should lead.

A. Mutual Submission (Verse 21)

- **The Text:** "*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*"
- **The Meaning:** Before Paul gives specific instructions to husbands, he gives this rule to everyone. A man who cannot submit himself to God and to the needs of his brothers is not fit to lead. Leadership begins with a humble heart before Christ.

B. The Command to Love (Verse 25)

- **The Text:** "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*"
- **The Depth:** The Greek word for love used here is **Agape**. This is not just a feeling; it is a choice to do what is best for the other person, even if it costs you everything.
- **The Standard:** How did Christ love the Church? He died for her. This means a "Godly Man" is a man who is willing to die to his own selfish desires, his own comfort, and his own "rights" to serve his wife and children.

C. The Meaning of "Headship" (Verse 23)

- **The Text:** "*For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church...*"
- **The Word "Head":** The Greek word is *kephale*. Bible teachers read this word in two ways. Most understand "head" as the one who has responsibility and authority over the body – as Christ is head over the church (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 2:10). Some scholars suggest it also carries the idea of "source", like the head of a river (compare Ephesians 4:15–16, where the body grows from the head). Both readings agree on this: if the head is healthy, the body grows. If the

husband is spiritually healthy, the whole family thrives. His authority is the authority of a **protector**, not a tyrant.

3. Deep Theological Facts for Leaders

- **The Household of God:** In 1 Timothy 3:4–5, Paul says a man must manage his own family well before he can lead the church. The family is the "testing ground" for ministry. If a man is kind in the pulpit but angry and lazy at home, his ministry is a lie.

Teacher's Note (Polygamy): Students may ask about polygamy. God's plan from the beginning is one man and one woman, joined as "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Jesus confirmed this (Matthew 19:4–6). A church leader must be "the husband of one wife" (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). What about a new believer who already has more than one wife? He should not send his wives away, because he must still provide for them and their children (1 Timothy 5:8). But he should not take another wife, and he should not serve as an elder or pastor (1 Timothy 3:2). Teach this with grace and patience, not with shame. – **Cultural Revolution:** In the Greco-Roman world of Paul's day, wives had few legal rights and were often treated like property. Paul's instruction for men to *sacrifice* themselves for their wives was shocking. It raised the dignity of women and placed a heavy, holy responsibility on men.

4. Practical Application: Godly Manhood in Uganda

What does this look like in daily life?

1. **Spiritual Initiative:** A Godly man doesn't wait for his wife to ask to pray. He is the one who gathers the family, opens the Bible, and leads them to God's throne.
2. **Hard Work and Provision (1 Timothy 5:8):** A man must provide for his household. This means being diligent, avoiding laziness, and ensuring his family has what they need for life and health.
3. **Gentle Strength:** True strength is "power under control." A man of God does not use his fists or harsh words to get respect. He earns respect through his character, his honesty, and his love.

5. Discussion Questions for the Students

1. **Cultural vs. Biblical:** In our local communities, what is a "strong man" usually like? How is that different from the "sacrificial love" Paul describes in Ephesians 5?
2. **The Home Test:** Why is it sometimes harder to be a "Christian leader" at home with your wife and children than it is to be a leader at the church?
3. **Sacrifice:** What is one specific thing you can "give up" this week (time, a personal hobby, a habit) to better serve your family or your community?
4. **The Fear of Man:** Do you feel pressure from other men in your village to be "tough" or "bossy"? How does the Gospel of Grace give you the courage to be a humble servant instead?