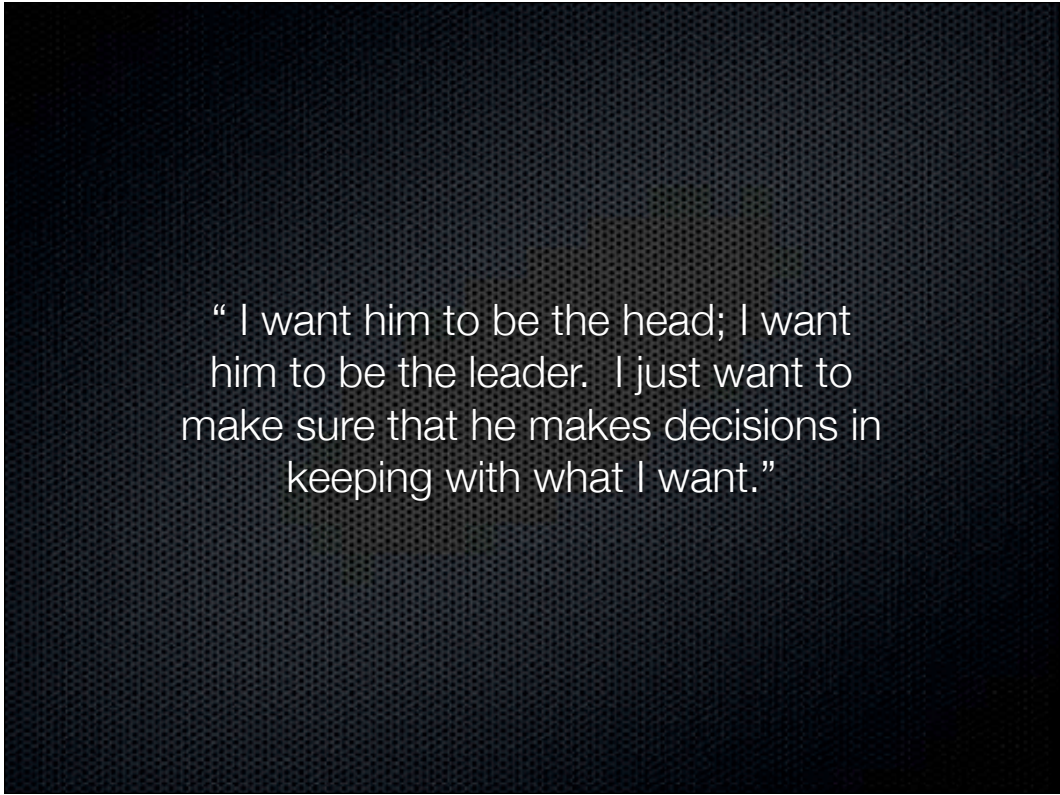


Authority

Appreciate his desire to serve and to lead



“ I want him to be the head; I want him to be the leader. I just want to make sure that he makes decisions in keeping with what I want.”

Tell story of no major decisions over 20 years of marriage

Male Headship and Authority

- EPH 5:22-23 - Wives be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He himself being th Savior of the body.

- Good-willed husband acts responsibly and lovingly to be the leader that God has asked him to be.
- Wives many times must defer and “be an encourager”
- ability to submit is ultimately an issue between wife and God

Sometimes woman is better decision maker but ultimately must defer to husband and be an encourager to him

Who “Makes the Call”

- Love & Respect must enter all decisions
 - He must desire to love her
 - She must desire to respect him
- When two good-willed people who feel loved and respected almost always discover a creative alternative to resolve a conflict

Den story

Submission to Illegal, Wrong or Evil?

- Wife's submission to God takes precedence over submission to husband
- Don't sin against Christ in order to defer to your husband

Good willed husband won't behave this way

Quiet Gentle Spirit Speaks Louder than Words

- 1TIM 2:12 - But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.
- Women can win husband over without a word but through their “chaste and respectful behavior”
1Pet 3:1-2
- Quiet, respectful behavior can be a magnet to a good-willed husband



Authority comes with
Responsibility

- Husbands desire acknowledgement that he is the leader - the one in authority
- God has made the husband responsible - he needs the authority to carry out that responsibility
- No organization can have dual leaders
 - must be one greater amongst equals
- God put someone in charge

51% Rule

- Go on record with your husband that you see him as having 51% of the responsibility and, therefore, 51% of the authority

- Man has more authority because he has more responsibility before God
- Man is to Christ : woman is to the church

- Don't ignore your husband's feelings and fears because you are focused on your own feelings and fears
 - why are men passive in family matters?
 - why are some husbands dominating in trying to maintain control?

Men can be passive in family matters; be sure it is not because he always gets put down when trying to help

Dominating husbands may be trying to maintain control— don't be a doormat but give quiet respectful submission

Men have fears of inadequacy and poor leadership/headship. Don't be overcome by your fears and forget his

Which Message Do You Want to Send?

- Acting disrespectfully because you feel unloved
- Appreciating and respecting your husbands desire to serve you and lead the family takes faith, courage and strength
 - it's God's plan

He will feel you appreciate his authority and leadership when...

- ...you support his self-image as a leader
- ...you praise his good decisions
- ...you are gracious if he makes a bad decision
- ...you disagree with him only in private and honor his authority in front of the kids
- ...you don't play "head games" to make him back down and be a "loving peacemaker"

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!