

## **FATHERHOOD: REFLECTING THE GLOW**

Ephesians 5:23-29

The role of a husband is to be Christlike and to love your wife just as Christ loves the church. This may require you to go beyond your family history, personality, how your friends treat their wives or what you see on television and in movies. This, of course, requires a specific goal. The goal is not simply to be a good husband but to be a Christlike husband.

Ephesians 5:25 says, "Husbands, love your wives, just as CHRIST also loved the church and gave Himself for her..." The instruction here is that husbands are to love their wives as CHRIST loved the church, not as JESUS loved the church. What's the difference? JESUS was the COMMON NAME of the Messiah, while CHRIST was His TITLE. Christ means "the anointed one." So, the Apostle Paul challenges every great father to be a Christlike husband by reflecting the anointed one.

### **THE TWO-FOLD SIGNIFICANCE OF ANOINTING**

#### **1. Anointing represents the glory of God.**

Psalm 133:1-2; I Corinthians 11:7; Proverbs 17:6; Proverbs 22:6, 15

Today, if you are anointed with oil at the altar, we take a little oil and put it on your forehead. In the Old Testament, the Priest would take a horn of oil and turn it upside down over your head. It wasn't a polite little dab.

#### **2. Anointing represents the offices of prophet, priest, and king.**

There were three Old Testament offices that were associated with anointing that are completely fulfilled by Christ.

### **HOW JESUS FULFILLED ALL THESE ROLES**

#### **1. A PROPHET** was responsible for accurately and faithfully delivering God's Word.

As a Prophet, Jesus was the earthly embodiment of the Word of God.

#### **2. A PRIEST** was an intercessor between God and man, and he was responsible to solve problems, minister comfort, and direct relationships.

As a Priest, Jesus healed sick people and compassionately performed miracles.

#### **3. A KING** was appointed by God to rule over the people as God's representative.

As a King, Jesus was a gentle and humble authority figure.

## **SUMMARIZING THE THREE ROLES AS IT RELATES TO BEING A FATHER**

- 1) **Prophet: A man who diligently seeks to hear God's voice and know God's Word for the benefit of his family.** Ephesians 5:25–27; Deuteronomy 6:4  
This includes living a life consistent with scriptural standards and values (not perfect, legalistic, or dominant—just dedicated).
  
- 2) **Priest: A man who sensitively and sacrificially meets the needs of his children.** Ephesians 5:28–29  
He helps them deal with spiritual, emotional, relational, and personal issues.
  
- 3) **King: A man who is the servant leader of his home.** Ephesians 5:23–24, 6:1–4  
He is the initiator of decision making and problem solving but without dominance.

## **OVERCOMING THE PERSISTENT PROBLEM WITH THESE ROLES**

### **The Problem:**

**Most men are inclined to one or two but not all three of these roles.**

For most men it is difficult to be proficient in all three of these disciplines. Your personality, training, and giftings encourage traits that allow you to naturally perform certain responsibilities while discouraging others. All three are necessary to properly lead your family.

### **The Solution:**

- a) **Admit your weaknesses.**
- b) **Forgive your father and break family iniquities.**
- c) **Submit your strengths and weaknesses to the Holy Spirit daily.**
- d) **Ask your wife to help you grow, and don't be threatened by her input.**
- e) **Find godly male role models to help you, inspire you, and fellowship with you.**