

Freedom FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010

“...to turn them
from darkness
to light...”

www.indianabcc.com

Family Series: Biblical Headship in the Home

“Submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” (Ephesians 5:21-25)

When a man lives his life submitted to Christ he can demonstrate Christ-likeness as the head of his family.

Unfortunately, a discussion on Biblical headship in the home can produce a lot of bad feelings. Some men have misused their authority. The idea that God calls husbands to be the heads of their homes has been disregarded, questioned, and even mocked in our culture. I have found four enemies that oppose God’s plan of Biblical headship:

1. The impact of feminism in our culture
2. Christian egalitarianism
3. The impact of abusive authority (leaders who are angry, controlling, domineering, demeaning, manipulative, and who use fear and guilt to motivate).
4. Passive male syndrome. The passive male is one who is:
 - Fearful—He is influenced by the fear of man. He does not want to rock the boat or get anyone upset with him.
 - Uninformed—He just does not know what to do. He has never been taught what to do or shown how to do it.
 - Insecure—He is only interested in what makes him feel better about himself or what is safe.
 - Unsure—He does not think he really has anything to offer.



In a culture where the typical family structure is so contrary to God’s plan, how do we know what true Biblical headship looks like? First and foremost, we must understand that true headship is found in Christ. Christ alone has the ultimate authority over the family. God extends that authority to husbands and fathers, who are called to represent Christ in the way they rule their families.

This position of headship carries with it many responsibilities. A father must be a man of his word. He must demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in his life. When carried out according to God’s design, Biblical headship in the home promotes an atmosphere of safety physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

It is no wonder then that Satan often directs his attacks on the family toward the head of the home. His goal is to get the father’s heart focused on something else so that he will abdicate his responsibilities in the family and marriage. I have said many times, “If a father abdicates his God-given responsibilities as leader of his home, he makes his family vulnerable to ungodly influence, and Satan will gain the advantage.”

Continued on Page 2



Be renewed in God’s truth....

Many of our friends and clients have been blessed by receiving our weekly email devotionals. These devotionals focus on God’s truth as it relates to topics such as identity in Christ, knowing God, marriage oneness, and resolving root issues. If you would like to receive these weekly devotionals, please contact the IBCC office at 317-585-1845 or office@indianabcc.com

Web Site Update Coming Soon

With the gracious help of a friend of the ministry/professional web designer, IBCC will be soon be updating its website. Visit us at www.indianabcc.com to download counseling resources, past newsletters, and messages by Rev. Jeff Pokone. Online donations can also be made via the website.

Family Series: Biblical Headship in the Home, *cont.*

In contrast, I believe that every man should desire to grow in his commitment to his family and take on the challenge of elder maturity. One mark of an elder is that he is a good manager of his home. Listen to God's description of an elder in 1 Timothy 3:2-4. "A bishop [elder] then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; **one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence.**"

The man who serves as an elder in his home manages his household in several ways.

1. He takes action and leads the family. He makes decisions that move him out of passivity.
2. He is the spiritual leader who feeds the flock, engaging with them in family worship.
3. He is the financial manager. He bears the main responsibility of being the provider of the home.

4. He is a vigorous man with ideas and passion. He communicates vision to his family. He is the emotionally strong one.
5. He protects his family from evil influence, beating off the wolves that would destroy the flock.

Husbands and fathers, how are you doing? Are you stepping up by faith into your God-ordained role as the head of your home? Wives and children, are you submitting to your God-given head, trusting the Lord to accomplish His purposes in your family through his leadership? As we submit to God's design for headship, He will bless our homes and families with His peace, protection, and abundant life and growth.

Rev. Jeffrey Pokone

This message entitled *Biblical Headship in the Home* is available at www.indianabcc.com. For more information on this subject, we invite you to download Rev. Pokone's [family_series.htm](#).

New Ministry Opportunity



Over the past year, the Lord has opened the door for IBCC to partner with a growing ministry in the city of Indianapolis. Whole and Holy Ministries is a non-profit Christian organization committed to helping women become whole spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Founded by Ms. Latonya Gaither, Whole and Holy seeks to minister to the spirits of hurting women and help them embrace the abundant life that is theirs in Christ.

One of the key Scriptures behind the ministry is 1 Peter 1:16: "Be holy, for I am holy." "Most of the women we help don't know how to love a holy God," says executive assistant Tahanna Butler. Some feel stuck in the hurts and failures of their past. Many struggle with feelings of unworthiness. The vision of Whole and Holy is to see these women receive spiritual healing through the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Through small group Bible studies, workshops, retreats, and seminars, they work to help women overcome such issues as abortion, abuse, sexual sins and addictions, and a weak sense of identity. They also provide individual mentoring to women who want to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Recently, Jeff Pokone has been able to serve alongside Whole and Holy Ministries in various ministerial and practical ways. These have included helping set up their board and conducting a counseling training seminar for their staff.

Concerning the seminar Tahanna remarks, "Rev. Pokone spent a whole day with us, sharing from his heart and giving freely of his time and knowledge. He has truly displayed the love of God by coming alongside and helping us grow." We thank the Lord for the privilege of serving together in His work of bringing women to freedom in Christ!

Visit www.wholeandholys.org for more information!

*Thank You for Your
Sacrificial Giving*



I am honored, grateful, and I praise God that you have entrusted us at Indiana Biblical Counseling Center with your prayers and financial support. In spite of difficult financial times, your faithful giving to the ministry enabled us to meet all of our budget needs in 2009. My desire is that you receive a well-earned reward for your prayers and generosity, as Paul writes in Philippians 4:17, "Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Your gifts help bring freedom!

-Jeff Pokone