

Lesson 8: The Continuing Rebellion Against God's Design: Male Abuse or Rejection of Headship



Rejoicing in God's Good Design

The Curse and Its Continuing Affects

Genesis 3:14-19

The primary focus of the curse: Adam's and Eve's God-given roles.

- Man's work
- Woman's relationship



Pain and Frustration

The Curse and Its Continuing Affects

“In the punishments God gave to Adam and Eve, he did not introduce new roles or functions, but simply introduced pain and distortion into the functions they previously had. Thus, Adam would still have primary responsibility for tilling the ground and raising crops, but the ground would bring forth ‘thorns and thistles’ ... Similarly, Eve would still have the responsibility of bearing children, but to do so would become painful... Thus God introduced conflict and pain into the previously harmonious relationship between Adam and Eve.”

Wayne Grudem

Man's Created Role Now Distorted

God's Good Design

Man: headship— **DISTORTED: abuse and misuse**



“Rule”: PAIN and SORROW

“Rule” = Hebrew word *mashal*

- Strong term
- Used in referring to governments with absolute rulers
- Not used in the family context

“The word ‘has nuances of dictatorial or absolute, uncaring use of authority, rather than considerate, thoughtful rule. It suggests harshness rather than kindness. The sense here is that Adam will misuse his authority by ruling harshly over his wife.’”

Wayne Grudem

Misuse of Authority—Harsh Domination of Women

Male Domination

Sinful, selfish tendency to get own way regardless of the needs, desires, or ideas of others

Appropriate Headship

Benevolent authority which blesses

Male Domination: opposite of Bible's teaching

Luke 22:25-26

Philippians 2:4

Misuse of Authority—Harsh Domination of Women

With God's help, men need to resist abusing the unique privilege of authority and responsibility given to them. Men need to rejoice in the humble, servant-like headship God has given them.



Another Abuse of Authority— Disregarding Responsibility

Abuse of Authority:

- Harsh Domination
- Failing to exercise headship
- When men fail to give leadership and accept responsibility, they are being passive.

Passivity in a relationship can be just as harmful as harsh domination.

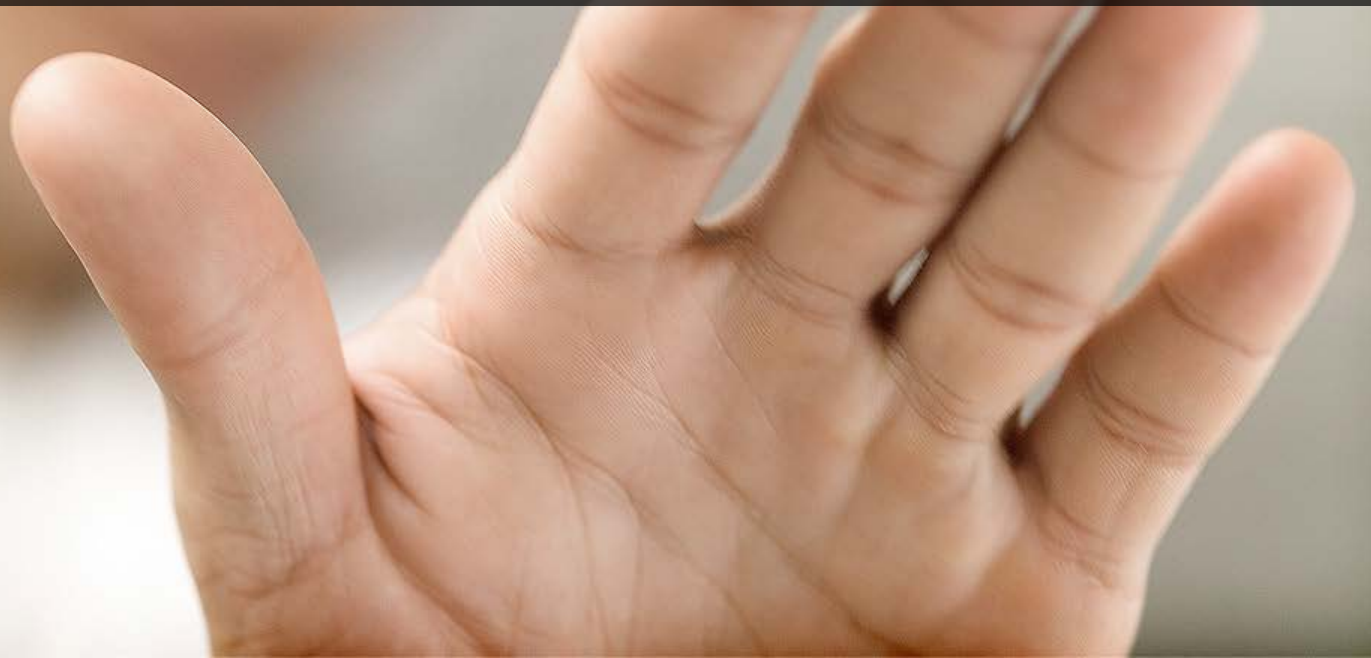
Examples:

- Hophni and Phinehas (1 Samuel 2:34-35)
- Herod (Acts 12:21-23)



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