



## CHAPTER 9

As Head of the Family  
The Husband is  
Responsible for The  
Quality of the Marriage

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("Rafe")

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Cover design: Paul D. Refior ("Rafe")

Third Printing: 2005

Printed in the United States of America

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It's Your CHOICE – As Head Of The Family He Husband Is Responsible For he Quality Of The Marriage

**AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY  
THE HUSBAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
THE QUALITY OF THE MARRIAGE**

Husband, it is your responsibility to insure an excellent marriage. Wait a minute, you say. That can't be right, can it? Yes. I think men had better be very clear about their accountability to God. Much of this book is about **CHOICES** for both spouses to make, and principles for each spouse to follow. In this chapter I am now addressing the reality that when Christians stand before the Lord one day to give an account, the husband will be the one held responsible for his own actions, **plus** those of his wife, in how they individually and as a couple, obeyed God's Scriptural dictates. To be sure the wife is and will be responsible before God for all of her choices, but she will not also carry the same accountability for her husband.

According to God, the husband, and the husband alone, has the position and responsibility as HEAD of the wife. There is no room for the husband to make excuses, and there is no place for the husband to point fingers at the wife. If the wife is not walking with the Lord, the man will stand before God as accountable for that. If the children are out of order, the man will stand accountable for that before God. That is a fearful and awesome reality (I Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22).

With that kind of responsibility, doesn't it make a lot of sense for the man to choose to draw upon every bit of assistance and counsel that he can get. My observation is that the man who is effective as the head of his home does not wear that position as a title or a badge, but is humbled by the omniscient eyes of the God who will require him to given an account. The successful husband is the one who knows his constant need for God's help and guidance. (II Corinthians 3:4-6). He is a man of prayer. He habitually draws upon the Lord's instruction in God's Word. Furthermore, those successful heads of the wife are those who seek out and value their wife's input, wisdom, position and perspective.

Years ago I was a Navy lawyer (JAG) stationed at the Naval Legal Service Office, Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia. A crisis pitch developed in our large law center when there was a ship collision and the captain of the naval vessel was court-marshaled. At the time of the accident the commanding officer ("CO") had been in bed during his normal time for sleep. Under military law and Navy protocol the skipper of the vessel was in fact fully responsible for everything that occurred on the ship.

Even if the C.O. of the ship had properly delegated duties to the executive officer ("X.O.") or some other subordinated officer, the C.O. remains accountable for that delegation of authority and for all that is done by every person on his ship. Furthermore the higher naval authority looks to the C.O. to account for the Navy ship. The executive officer of the ship is second in command and has very high responsibilities. It is necessary that the X.O. be highly trained and diligent in fulfilling his duties. In the absence of the C.O. the X.O. is in command. Certainly there are times when the X.O. of the ship is smarter and more competent than C.O. Such competence or aptitude does not change the order of authority that is established by military law. Nor does it change the accountability of the C.O. to the higher authorities. Neither the commanding officer

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nor the executive officer is ever free to modify the military law or the chain of command established by the higher Navy authorities.

This analogy is not a complete or perfect parallel to the roles for husbands and wives established by God. But it does give a helpful picture of the accountability of the husband to God and the responsibility of both the husband and the wife to accept and fulfill the roles and responsibilities established and declared by the higher authority – God Himself. The “law” and the “orders,” as well as the full instruction manual for marriage is the Bible - God’s holy, perfect and inerrant Word.

I do not believe I need to belabor this point. The reality is that the husband is the head of the wife, and that God has made the husband to be responsible for the quality of the marriage. The husband dare not neglect or misuse his role and responsibility of being head of his wife. Being the leader gives no room for the husband to be a tyrant or a dictator. There is only one dictator allowed – Almighty God Himself.

Husband, **CHOOSE** to be the godly head of your wife and family – in constant obedience to the Word of God and in dependence upon your Heavenly Father.