Session Four



Understanding Male Headship

Supplemental Notes

- The 2nd speaker in the video is Dr. Bilezikian. He explains the meaning of the word "head" in 1 Corinthians 11:3 ("the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God"). Here are his **points**:
 - o If translated "boss, leader"
 - The boss of every man is Christ (yes).
 - The boss of the woman is man (maybe yes, maybe no).
 - The boss of Christ is God (no Jesus is not eternally subordinate to the Father).
 - If translated "source of life"
 - The source of life of every man is Christ (yes, in creation).
 - The source of life of the woman is man (yes, in creation, woman was made from the side of man).
 - The source of life of Christ is God (yes, Jesus was sent from God the Father in the incarnation).

Bible Verses and Significant Quotes

What are the implications of headship in the New Testament?

"In that day, "head" did not convey the connotations of leader in Greek like it does in English. When you look at the standard Greek dictionaries, they support this...Not one of them means leader, boss, authority or anything closely related to them. Not one. But they have a whole bunch related to source." Payne

How does headship apply to the church?

But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵ But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved. 1 Corinthians 11:3-5

"I cannot think of a greater heresy that is now threatening to infiltrate the Christian church because of this attempt to show that there is a hierarchy within the divinity therefore there must be a hierarchy among humans, male and female."

Bilezikian

"God is the head, the source of his life. Now it makes sense. The designation of head, understood in this matter. This gives sense to the order of the sequence of these three categories." Bilezikian

"There is some kind of issue going on in the church meetings that has to do with women prophesying. Paul wants the women to continue to preach. He never forbids them there. He only wants them to have a proper head covering or their hair coiffured in a way that identifies them as women and that the men are identified as men." Johnson

What is headship in marriage?

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

Ephesians 5:1-2, 23

"I begin with one of the more common abuses of the text...who makes the final choice. Well, I don't know if I hear Paul laughing or crying when that utterly modern reading is superimposed on this text." Fee

"This whole role thing kind of backfires...when you have these strict roles of what men are supposed to do and what women are supposed to do, very few of us fit in those boxes." Swanson

"Ephesians 5 is the only passage in all of Greek literature and the only passage in the New Testament which refers to the husband being head of the wife. Well, what does he mean by this? Paul immediately explains the husband is head of the wife as Christ is head of the church...he gave himself up for her to nourish her, and cherish her. And then he says, so, you husbands should love your wives, should nourish your wives, and cherish your wives. That's what he means by head. Source of nourishment." Payne

How has headship been misused?

"We're putting power and hierarchy above all the fruit of the Spirit." Lisa Thompson

"Family violence often has roots in women being undervalued and patriarchal hierarchy." Morgan

"She said...he did things I cannot even tell you about. And I told the pastors in my church and they told me that if you leave him, you are doing great violence to your relationship with Christ because your husband is priest, prophet and king." Haddad