

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**MINOCQUA, WI**  
**SERMON FOR JUNE 19-20, 2022**

***However, I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and man is woman's head, and God is Christ's head.***  
(1 Corinthians 11:3 EHV)

In the name of Christ Jesus, the Head of the Church,

Are there "Dad jokes" in the Bible? Let's try a few...

- What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?... He was Ruth-less.
- If Goliath would come back to life today, would you like to tell him the joke about David and Goliath?... No, he already fell for it once.
- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.....Mosquitoes come close, though.

Some non-Bible-related "Dad jokes"...

- Melons have weddings because they "cantaloupe."
- I don't trust stairs. They're always up to something.
- My daughter loves being buried up to her neck in sand at the beach. Her little face lights up when I come back to get her the next day.

Seriously, though, did you listen to the Bible passage I read a moment ago? ***"I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and man is woman's head, and God is Christ's head.*** Do you have enough elbow room? Passages like this tend to put elbows in motion. Husbands poke wives and say, "Listen! Pastor's about to tell you to submit." Wives respond, "You listen...to the whole message. Listen to what your responsibilities as husband and Christian man are."

And so it goes. Elbows are exchanged, smirks and glances are traded, adults giggle like schoolchildren passing notes in class. Some of this is simply good-natured ribbing, but there's often more to it than that. Is this funny? Perhaps God's will regarding man/woman roles is outdated and old-fashioned – and that's why people react the way they do.

This is the Word of God that communicates the unchanging will of God. What God says about man/woman roles, especially today, what he has to say to men whether or not you are a father, whether or not you are a husband, is still relevant and ought to be taken seriously. Before us today: **WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A CHRISTIAN MAN**. Not necessary: the swagger and strength of Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson or Schwarzenegger in his day. Not necessary: the masculine macho of Clint Eastwood, John Wayne, or Chuck Norris. A real man, a Christian man, recognizes that Christ is the head of every man. A real man, a Christian man, understands that man's headship mirrors Christ's headship.

Disorder and chaos in worship. Everyone doing what makes them feel good. Women seeking authority over men in the church, claiming oppression and unfairness, some women even becoming pastors in defiance of God's clear Word. Men not leading as they should. Sounds like 2022. It also describes the Corinthian church in our text. In this context, Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, writes to set things right: ***"However, I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and man is woman's head, and God is Christ's head.***

I'll bet you only heard that middle phrase, ***"man is woman's head."*** If you're male, you like it. No problem here! If you're female, by nature, you resent it. But it doesn't stand by itself. Man's headship of woman is sandwiched between two other headships that remind us, particularly men, of what it means to be the head, of what it takes to be a Christian man.

Men, this is where it all begins. Not in Ephesians 5 where wives are commanded to submit, not in 1 Timothy 2 where woman is commanded not to have or to seek authority over man. For you men, it begins here. To be

sure, the head of woman is man, but to understand that, we must first recognize that Christ is the head of every man.

What does it mean to be the “head”? Here’s where Ephesians 5 comes in. Christ is the head of the church, which is his body. And what did Christ as head of the church do? **“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, by cleansing her with the washing of water in connection with the Word.”** (Ephesians 5:25,26). Christ our head, died for the church, which is his body, his Bride.

More headship activity is described in Ephesians 1: **“God placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”** (Ephesians 1:22,23). Christ has all authority over the whole universe, and as our head he uses that authority not to boss us around, not to be macho and to assert his masculinity, but to guide and direct everything in the best interest of his body, which is his church made up of all believers.

Note that even Christ has a head: **“God is Christ’s head.”** He submitted to the will of God the Father to carry out his plan of salvation. In Gethsemane, he said, **“Not my will (Father), but yours be done.”** (Luke 22:42b) In John 6, he said, **“I have come down from heaven, not to do my will, but the will of him who sent me.”** (v. 38).

Men, do you see why the understanding of your maleness and headship begins here? You are not king of your castle. You are not the emperor of your estate. You can’t just run off and do whatever you want to do without regard for your wife and children, if you are so blessed. Whatever your status, you men have a head, Christ, to whom you must submit and honor as your head and leader.

So, men, how has Christ, your head, been treating you lately? Has he been cranky? Has he been sniping at you with little comments here and there designed to put you in your place? When you need to be close to him and reassured of his love and you reach out for him, does he turn away and say, “I’m not interested, I’ve got a headache?” Is that how Christ treats you as your head? Hardly! Overlooking your flaws and forgiving your sins, he loves you and cares for you even when you are a bear, when you are anything but loveable, even giving his life to pay for your sins. He gives 100% to satisfy your needs even when you don’t do a single thing in return.

The head of every man is Christ. What a head! What a leader! No selfishness here. No male chauvinism here. Who wouldn’t want to submit to our Lord in response to his unconditional, undeserving love. Now that middle statement: **“Man is woman’s head.”** This isn’t a cultural thing, applying only in Paul’s day. God set up man/woman roles before the Fall into sin. Man is neither God’s favorite gender nor is he superior to woman. Men and women have equal status in God’s eyes when it comes to salvation, but for the good of mankind, God has assigned roles for his people to carry out. Man’s role is to be the head in marriage, in the home, in the church, although our secular society blurs these distinctions. As head, man is responsible and accountable to God for what happens, especially in his home and in his church.

How do men carry out their headship? If you’re single, are all the women you know at your beck and call? If you’re married, is it your job to make your wife submit? If you’re familiar with Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast*, you know about Gaston, the handsome, arrogant brute who wants to marry the beautiful Belle. When he proposes he says something like, “Just think of it, Belle. When I come home from hunting, you can rub my feet. You can make my dinner and clean house and have my children. How could you refuse to marry me?” She is, of course, less than thrilled. Unfortunately, that arrogant attitude isn’t far off in describing some men today.

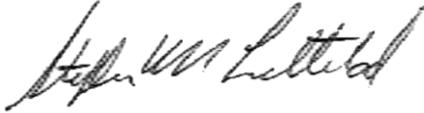
Man’s headship is to model Christ’s headship. Christian men live not for themselves, but for others. As head, the Christian man is deeply interested in what happens to his body, his wife. The Christian man isn’t so foolish as to think that the head can live without the body. Indeed, Paul says in Ephesians 5, **“In the same way, husbands have an obligation to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. To be sure, no one has ever hated his own body, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church.”** (vv. 28,29).

Christian men live lives of humble service, putting the needs of other before their own, especially the needs of spouse and children. They have a deep interest in what is happening in their homes, and guide and direct

the affairs of their households in the best interest of all in the family. This is what it takes to be a real man, a Christian man. This is nothing less than modeling Christ's headship.

Above all, a Christian man must be a Word-of-God man. The foundation of life and home must be the Word of God. Imagine if this church had not been built on a foundation, just placed on the mix of dirt/sand/clay that passes for soil around here. It would eventually collapse. **"No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ"** (1 Corinthians 3:11). Men, if you are not into the Word of God, you will not hold up under the strain of life and the weight of responsibility. If, however, God's Word is as important to you as the food you eat and the air you breathe, you will find that **"(You) can do everything through him who gives (you) strength"** (Philippians 4:13), and that **"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."** (Php 2:13).

Someone has said, "Manhood used to be something to achieve, but now it's something to overcome." Manhood is under attack these days, especially Christian manhood, but don't ever apologize for being a Christian man! Don't hesitate to lead your family and your church, don't hesitate to be the head, and model Christ's headship. If you are a father, your children will remember how you love their mother, whether or not you love her as Christ loved the church. Men, may God bless your service to the Savior, as you serve and lead the precious souls entrusted to your care.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen W. Luchterhand". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Pastor Stephen Luchterhand  
Minocqua, WI