

# Men that Are Loving Leaders

Making your Family Function Articles

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MAKING YOUR FAMILY FUNCTION like any organization will depend on leadership to succeed. Traditionally men have been viewed as the leader of the home but in all honesty many homes are not very functional because the men have been dysfunctional in their leadership. When it comes to leadership models men typically default to the Military / Corporate America's CEO idea of leadership where the leader calls all the shots and people under his leadership do what he says. That kind of leadership is necessary in those organizations, but in the family a different kind of leader is needed. Men must be loving leaders to both their wives and children if the family is to function properly. Let's consider six ways a man can be the kind of leader every family needs and will flourish under.

Men that lead in the home will first engage the rest of the family in the decisions of the home. If you are even remotely religious, you likely have been given the impression that the man as the head of the household means he makes all the decisions. If that were true, which it is not, it would be a very dangerous scenario for one person to hold that kind of power. Leadership in a family is not about gaining power but about leading the other family members in decision making. In a functional family a man will solicit the input of his wife in all decisions as an equal partner. When it is possible the man will involve children in decisions so they can feel part of the family and learn how to make good decisions in the future. Visit [myzbc.com](http://myzbc.com) to watch a video, "Kingdom Man" that explains this concept in greater detail.

Secondly, men that lead need to constantly work at communication with the family. Studies show that women use approximately 25,000 words a day while the average man will use only 12,500 words a day. Men need to work at communication. Men will build marital intimacy in part through communication with his wife by self-revelation, listening to his wife and reflecting what she shared back to her. Healthy communication with children is not through barking orders and expectations but through listening first, asking the right questions and always making time to answer their questions.

Thirdly, men that lead in the home will live out their priorities. Many men mistakenly make work and wealth building the top priority of life. In functional families men generally have these top three priorities: God, wife and children . . . and in that order. Whatever comes after that isn't as important as the top three. Priorities will show our values and values are what shape our lives.

Fourthly, men that lead love the members of his family unconditionally. St. Paul states sacrificial love as the primary action of the husband toward the wife in Ephesians 5:25. Children's

primary need is to be loved and accepted by their fathers. The love that both wives and children need from the man of the house will require an attitude of sacrifice from that man. Good leaders will think of others before they think of their own desires and needs.

Fifthly men that lead determine the values of the home. All men, whether intentional or not, whether good or bad, set the values of a home. All humans are made in such a way that what our father values will always be a major influence in our lives. To establish positive, life giving values men need to work with their wives to search through the deep issues of life; morality, justice, purpose, life goals and the afterlife. Then as values are determined the man needs to ensure those are taught to the children – see my article in two weeks on Teaching and Training Children.

Lastly men that lead stay personally healthy through self-care. How can a man effectively lead if he is emotionally spent, physically exhausted, or spiritually bankrupt? Maintaining holistic personal health is a wonderful example for a man to set for his children and allows him to engage with his wife and children without encumbrances. We live our lives in seven days: our work, our relationships, our recreation and our rest all happen within seven days. Within those seven days God established a rhythm of six and one. Six days to work so the man can provide for his family and one day of rest so the man can be renewed physically, relationally and spiritually. Part of being a good leader in the home means the man takes good care of himself so he can be a blessing to others.

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