

Fourth Relationship Story: Headship of the Husband, Submission of the Wife

First Third:

Express joy in Christ together

Cast Vision

Questions:

How are you doing?

How did you obey last week's teaching?

Who are you witnessing to?

Who has come to faith? Are they witnessing to those in their circle?

Who are you training to become a reproducing disciple? Are they training others?

Second Third:

Pray briefly for God to open up His message to us.

DO stick to the story.

DON'T talk about politics; DON'T chase rabbit trails; DON'T focus on minor points in the passage.

DON'T talk about religion. DON'T dominate the conversation.

The Bible several times mentions a married couple, Priscilla and Aquila, whom God uses in ministry together. The first time they appear, they are working together with the great Christian teacher Paul:

Acts 18:1-3 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

God then uses the two of them to teach another great teacher, Apollos:

Acts 18:24-26 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

In one of his letters, Paul speaks very highly of the two of them:

Romans 16:3-5 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. ⁵ Greet also the church in their house.

In another letter, Paul tells us how husbands and wives – and all Christians – are to relate to one another:

Ephesians 5:21-25 . . . submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

He goes on in that letter to say that a husband and wife are one, a unity, as we have seen before.

Elsewhere, Paul explains that this relationship of headship and submission reflects the relationship of Jesus Himself to God the Father:

1 Corinthians 11:3 I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

What does this story tell us about God? About Christ? About man?

What does this story tell us about marriage? About headship and submission? About partnership in ministry? What does this imply for the way a husband should treat his wife? For the way a wife should treat her husband? Does Paul tell the husband to make sure the wife submits to him? Does Paul tell the husband to love his wife if she submits to him? How do these pictures of biblical headship and submission differ from common misunderstandings of them?

Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A promise to claim?

Who do you identify with in this story?

Last Third:

Practice telling the story

What will you do differently this week because of this story?

Who will you witness to or share this story with next week?