

Headship

What? Where? How? Why?...

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- Setting the Scene
- Headship, Identity and Purpose
- The Rise was Greater than the Fall

- Embracing God's Arrangement
- The Ultimate Intention
- Setting the Scene?...

Setting the Scene

Three things

- 1: Headship concerns God's created order and arrangement for the whole Universe, established in eternity! NB: Key words: *kephale* ('head, head over...') and *hypotasso* ('under [God's] arrangement')
- 2: Headship affects all of us, in all aspects of our lives, in all sorts of ways.
- 3: Embracing God's purpose and arrangement of headship and submission brings security, authority, harmony, power, peace...

“Arranged in Order”

In many separate revelations [each of which set forth a portion of the Truth] and in different ways God spoke of old to [our] forefathers in and by the prophets, [But] in the last of these days He has spoken to us in [the person of a] Son, Whom He appointed Heir and lawful Owner of all things, also by and through Whom He created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time [He made, produced, built, operated, and arranged them in order]. He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had by offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high. (Heb 1:1-3, Amp)

Headship, Identity and Purpose

This grace was given to me - the least of all the saints - to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of the Messiah, and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things. This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made know through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens.

(Eph 3:8-10 HCSB)

Three Expressions of Headship

But I want you to know (to realise) that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ. (1Cor 11:3)

What does 'Kephaie' Mean?

What is first, supreme or extreme

Prominent or outstanding

Head or ruler

‘Christ is the head of every man’

- Because Christ is the head of all things in creation
- True understanding begins with a realisation of who Christ is
- Headship in human relationships flows from the headship of Christ

‘God is the head of Christ’

- Headship originates in God himself
- Headship first of all describes the way the Father and the Son relate

‘The man is the head of the woman’

- In Greek man/husband are the same word & woman/wife are the same word
- Should read as, ‘the husband is the head of the wife’
- We are being shown something of the eternal purpose of God in the mystery of marriage - this is deep!

What does the Father's headship mean
to Jesus?

Eternal Generation *'monogenes'*

- Sharing & Showing the Father's Glory - Jn 1:14
- Revealing the Father's Nature - Jn 1:18
- Obeying the Father's Command - Jn 3:16f
- Fulfilling the Father's Mission - Jn 3:17f
- Mediating the Father's Life - 1Jn 4:9

Intimacy & Abiding

...no-one knows the Son except the Father, and no-one knows the Father except the Son. (Matt 11:27)

...and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. (1Cor 3:23)

...your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col 3:3)

Submission & Authority

...the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. (Jn 5:19f)

...I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. (Jn 8:28)

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Mt 28:18)

Sharing all things

All things have been handed over to me by my Father... (Matt
11:27)

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands.
(Jn 3:35)

Glorifying

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (Jn 14:13)

Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you... (Jn 17:1)

What does Christ's headship mean for us?

...for the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. (Eph 5:23)

Christ's headship is for the benefit of the church

And he put everything under his feet and appoint him as head over everything for the church. (Eph 1:22)

Christ's headship causes us to build right and mature

This Jesus is the stone rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone (*kephale*). (Acts 4:11)

But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head; Christ. (Eph 4:15)

Christ's headship saves us

...for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Saviour of the body.

(Eph 5:23)

Christ's headship means He has first place

He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything. (Col 1:18)

Christ's headship means we share His position

For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled by Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.
(Col 2:9-10)

Christ's headship means He is our source of life & growth

...the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, develops with growth from God. (Col 2:19)

The Rise was Greater
than the Fall

Genesis 1

God created (has authority over) heavens and earth (Ge 1:1), “all things” (Col 1:15ff); He is the SOURCE of all authority (Ro 13:1)

The Universe has in-built expressions of God’s government, authority (Ge 1:16-18).

Man and Woman both made “in God’s image, likeness” (Ge 1:26-27) – same *essence* but different *expressions* - and both commissioned to “rule” and “subdue” (Ge 1:18).

Genesis 2

God breathed His life into Adam (Ge 2:7) and commanded him not to eat from Tree of Knowledge (16-17)

Woman created from Man, to be his suitable helper (18, 21-22); Adam named his wife (2:23, cf. 3:20)

Also, in the beginning...

Lucifer was a beautiful, blameless, wise and “perfect” created being, an anointed “guardian cherub” in Eden (Ez 28:12-15)

But pride, wickedness and violence were found in him (Ez 28:15-17); he wanted to be enthroned; to “be like God” (Isa 14:13-14).

Lucifer was cast down from heaven to earth (Isa 14:12, Rev 12:7-10)...

Genesis 3

The Serpent twists God's Word, Eve misquotes it, Adam stays silent (Ge 3:1-2). The serpent persuades Eve she "will not die" but "will be like God" (Ge 3:4-5)

Adam places serpent's word above God's; abdicates authority *over* creation because no longer *under* Creator's authority (Ge 3:17-18). God calls Adam to give an account (Ge 3:9).

God curses Serpent, judges Man...and promises restoration (Ge 3:14ff)...

Violating God's Arrangement

God has arranged the heavens and earth as He knows best – His created order!

The 'two Falls' were attempts to usurp, violate God's order.

All human relationships were 'dis-arranged' by the Fall.

Restoring All Things!

From the beginning, God promised restoration (Ge 3:15).

Jesus destroyed the Devil (Heb 2:14), disarmed every enemy (Col 2:15) and was raised “far above all rule, authority, power and dominion” (Eph 1:21) – He’s “head over everything” (Eph 1:22, Col 2:10). Christ’s Rise was greater than Adam’s Fall! (Ro 5:17).

When we submit to Christ’s Headship, we begin to express God’s order, arrangement and authority - in the Home, the Church, and the World!...

Psalm 8

“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet...”

Concerns God's cosmic arrangement! Looks back to Adam and forward to Christ (Heb 2:6-8, 1Co 15:27).

Adam and his sons were created for glorious headship (Ge 1:28), a destiny now fulfilled in Christ and His sons (Eph 1:22, 2:6) - everything under His/our feet!



Coffee
Break

Embracing God's Arrangement

Everything finds its place!

Headship and submission are the order of the Universe!

Headship is not hierarchy; submission is not slavery. There is neither superiority in headship nor inferiority in submission.

There's a place of *both* submission *and* headship for all God's people: men and women. As we embrace God's order, we express the image and purpose of God... and find peace, security, authority!

Cosmic order: *kephalē*

A Husband is the head of his Wife (Eph 5:23)

Man is the head of Woman (1Co 11:3)

Christ is the head of Man (1Co 11:3)

Christ is the head of the Church (Eph 5:23, Col 1:18)

Christ is the head over every power and authority (Col 2:10)

Christ is the head over everything (Eph 1:22)

God is the Head of Christ (1Co 11:3)

Cosmic order: *hypotassō*

Jesus submitted to his Parents (Lk 2:51)

Demons submit to Believers (Lk 10:17ff)

Believers submit to Leaders (1Co 16:16)

Believers submit to Believers (Eph 5:21)

Believers submit to the Father (Heb 12:9)

Wives submit to Husbands (Eph 5:24, Col 3:18)

Believers submit to Governments (Ro 13:1, Tit 3:1, 1Pe 2:13)

The Church submits to Christ (Eph 5:24)

Angels, authorities and powers submit to Christ (1Pe 3:22)

Everything submits to Christ (Eph 1:22, Phil 3:21, Heb 2:8)

The world to come submits to Christ (Heb 2:5)

Christ submits to God (1Co 15:28)

It starts with submission

Adam's rule was to reflect God's image (Ge 1:26-28).

Jesus had authority because He was under authority (Jn 4:34); He was exalted because He was humble and obedient (Phil 2:6-11).

The Church is sent with authority when we obey Christ's command to "go" (Mt 28:18-20).

Expressing headship begins with embracing submission! (Mt 8:9)

There's a Divine and beautiful order for everything: a pattern of headship and submission that's coming to fullness in Christ. It's not dominance or weakness...but dignity, strength, authority, power, liberty and freedom! Following Christ's pattern, we exercise our headship as we embrace our submission. This is the majestic, glorious arrangement of God!...

“As is Fitting”

Submission is “fitting” (Col 3:18, ‘due, becoming, suitable, proper’) - a ‘perfect fit’ for God’s people, with powerful, positive consequences...

...a clear conscience (Ro 13:5), authority in prayer and prophecy (1Co 11:10), good testimony (Titus 2:5), resisting the devil (Jas 4:7), winning unbelievers (1Pe 3:1), unhindered prayers (1Pe 3:7), power (Mt 8:9)...

So, what does
it all look like?

A man's submission means

“I submit to Christ” – Read and obey His Word, confess my sins, keep short accounts...” (1Jn 1:9)

“I obey the law, pay my debts, respect authority” ” (Ro 13:1, Tit 3:1, 1Pe 2:13)

“I respect my wife, crave her input, listen to her counsel” 1Pe 3:7)

“I’m under the authority of my Apostle and Elders” (Heb 13:17)

“I’m a great employee – hardworking, honest, reliable” (Eph 6:5ff)

“I know my weaknesses, and get input when I need it” (Ro 12:3)

A man's headship means

“I take a lead - I step-up, set the pace and set an example” (Jn 5:19)

“I cherish my wife, with sacrificial love” (Eph 5:25)

“I pray for my family, I declare health, provision, favour” (Jas 4:7)

“I'm a good steward of finance, and make wise decisions”

“I'm a good boss – I treat staff well” (Eph 5:9)

“The buck stops with me – I take final responsibility” (Ge 3:9)

A woman's submission means

“I submit to Christ, obey the law, and am a great employee...” (Eph 6:5ff)

“I let my husband lead, and find security under his leadership” (1Pe 3:1)

“I’m under the authority of my Apostle and Elders” (Heb 13:17)

“I share freely with my husband, bringing him my wisdom, counsel and perspective, and saving him from trouble” (cf. Ac 5)

“I pass the buck (or, rather, I let him take the final decision!)”

A woman's headship means

“I rule alongside my husband, serving God, raising our children, fulfilling our destiny...We're 'joint-heirs' of the gracious gift of life!” (1Pe 3:7)

“If necessary, I find the grace to lead in the absence of a husband.” (Heb 4:16)

“I move in power and authority when I pray and prophesy” (1Co 11:10)

“I'm a good steward, a good boss, a good neighbour...”

“I lead people to Christ!...” (Jn 4:39)

A church's submission means

“We honour God's order - and find great liberty and power” (Jdg 5:1-2)

“We honour God's Word – eternal truth in contemporary situations” (2Ti 3:16)

“We're under Apostolic authority” (2Co 10:8)

“We submit to our leaders” (Heb 13:17)

We pray for our governments (1Ti 2:1-2)

“We enjoy great blessing!” (Ps 133)

A church's headship means

“Our elders give great leadership” (1Ti 3:4-5, 5:17)

“We take authority over all our enemies” (Eph 6:12)

“Nothing can prevail over us” (Mt 16:18)

“We use the ‘keys’ to bring heaven to earth” (Mt 16:19)

“We’re the head and not the tail!” (Dt 28:13)

“We take a lead in our communities” (Ac 2:47)

“We succeed in our Mission!” (Ac 2:47)

The Ultimate Intention

Marriage is the representation of and the agency for...

...the glorious image of God in the Father-Son relationship because marriage is a prophetic enactment of the nature of God.

Marriage is the representation of and the agency for...

...the glorious purpose of God in the Christ-Church relationship because marriage is a prophetic enactment of the purpose of God.

Secure Identity

The image of God determines the composition of mankind - 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.' (Gen 1:26)

The image of God is represented in mankind through plurality and distinction - 'male and female he created them.' (Gen 1:27)

Clear Purpose

As God's Image-Bearers we are called to...

Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth (Gen 1:28)

Subdue it and have dominion (Gen 1:28)

Cultivate and guard the garden (Gen 2:15)

The Beautiful Harmony of Headship

It empowers everyone to be everything they can possibly be

It's an expression of the very nature of God - we live as God
himself lives

Being New Creatures in Christ means that who we are and what we
do flows from who he is and what he does.

Setting the Scene?...

...For a fresh appreciation of Man and Woman

...For a new blessing in your Marriage

...For new confidence in our Mission

...For receiving from God in Ministry