I. Marriage IS a covenant with God (Gen. 2:18-24); marriage without God is fornication

A. the Man as head & the wife as 'helper'

B. the man leaves parents to establish a new household

II. The MAN alone is responsible before God for the spiritual direction of his family (relationship and obedience to God). He must NOT bow to pressure and manipulation from his wife.

A. Adam (Gen. 3:17) – Because you listened to the voice of your wife.

B. Noah (Gen. 6:13-18; Gen. 7:1) God required Noah to make the decision for his family.

C. Abraham (Gen. 12:1-8; Heb. 11:8-10) Abraham left his house & family to dwell in tends. (Gen. 22:1-5; Heb. 11:17-19) Abraham took Isaac for a sacrifice.

D. Jacob (Gen. 31:17-21; Gen. 35:1-15) – Jacob confiscated the idols; Jacob made the decision to follow God.

E. Moses (Exodus 4:19-27) – the Lord sought to kill Moses because he placated his wife.

F. Joshua (Josh. 24:14-15) – As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

G. New Testament (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)

III. The MAN is responsible as teacher & disciplinarian of the children (by word & example)

A. Abraham (Gen. 18:19)

B. Moses (Deut. 6:1-9)

C. Joshua (Josh 4:1-7)

D. Eli (1 Sam. 3:11-14)

E. New Testament (Eph. 6:1-4; Heb. 12:5-11)

F. God still holds the man responsible, regardless of whether his wife is compliant or obstinate (ex. Moses & Zipporah)