

- III. The covenants God established with His people was through male heads of families.
- IV. Numbering of people was done by counting males.
- V. Shortly after the destruction of the flood, God choose another male (Abraham) to be the “*father of many nations*” on whom He built His people
- VI. Symbolism.
  - A. The symbol chosen by God to identify His covenant with Abraham was circumcision — an act related *exclusively* to males.
- VII. The covenant beginning the Mosaic Age was given to a male (Moses). God chose a male to lead His people out of Egypt.
- VIII. God chose kings to rule His people — not queens.
- IX. With only a few exceptions, the prophets were males.
- X. Only two books of the Bible are named after females (Ruth and Esther).
- XI. God’s designating of male leadership throughout the ages was consistent.
  - A. God designated male leadership in the garden.
  - B. God designated male leadership in the Patriarchs.
  - C. God designated male leadership in the Mosaic Age.
  - D. Male leadership is still designated in the New Testament.
- XII. We see no examples of women preaching publically to large crowds (as did Peter, Paul and others) in the New Testament.
- XIII. Male leadership is consistent on into the New Testament.
  - A. Church leadership.
    - 1. God designated males to be Elders over His church.
    - 2. God designated males to be Deacons in His church.
  - B. Christ chose all males to be His twelve apostles.
  - C. Writers of the New Testament were males.
  - D. The last prophet of all times (John) was a male.
- XIV. God chose Christ (a male) to be the “*last Adam.*” One man’s (mankind) sin brought death. One Man’s death brought redemption. God’s plan has remained consistent throughout all of time.
 

*“The Scriptures tell us, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living person.’ But the last Adam — that is, Christ — is a life-giving Spirit. What came first was the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. Every human being has an earthly body just like Adam’s, but our heavenly bodies will be just like Christ’s. Just as we are now like Adam, the man of the earth, so we will someday be like Christ, the man from heaven.” (I Cor. 15:45-49 NLT)*

---

*“Diligence” is a privately funded publication of:  
Dennis and Sherri Owens — Cincinnati, Ohio  
diligence@gorfsystems.com — <http://www.gorfsystems.com/diligence/>*

---



# DILIGENCE

*“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11*

A ministry of Dennis and Sherri Owens

---

Volume 5

October 1, 2006

Issue 16

## Male Leadership — In The Church and In The Home

The last two issues of *Diligence* addressed the subjects of leadership as well as the importance God placed on the firstborn *males* ever since the creation of Adam and Eve. If you didn’t read the September 15<sup>th</sup> issue, it would be a good idea to go to the web site listed at the bottom of page four and do so before continuing with this article. That previous issue listed numerous Scriptures that make it quite clear that the significance of firstborn *males* was designated by God — not created by man’s custom or culture. The verses we looked at in the previous issue should make it apparent that the concept of male leadership in the family and in the church was established by God — from the very beginning, with the creation of the first man and first woman. It was also noted in the previous issue that the importance God placed on the firstborn male was a pattern God was establishing even with the creation of Adam and Eve. The male (Adam) had to come first in keeping with the pattern God was establishing. Let us repeat again however, that along with that status of firstborn male came certain *responsibilities* of leadership. It did not *guarantee* spiritual superiority nor was it given because of superior spiritual strength. *It was a responsibility designated by God — not a reward or a recognition of ability.* So let’s continue now with our discussion of “firstborn” as it relates to male leadership in the New Testament church.

Jesus Christ (or the “*Word*” in these verses) was the ultimate firstborn.

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning...<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.” (John 1:1, 2, and 14 NIV)*

Christ had headship over the entire family of man as well as headship over the Body — or the Church.

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.” (Colossians 1:15-18 NIV)*

Let’s tie some things together now in relation to Adam being the firstborn of mankind and Christ being the firstborn over all creation. As we read the following verses, a very striking parallel becomes evident. Pay especially close attention

to the manner in which the picture of the Church (the Bride of Christ) being the Body of Christ, parallels the fact that Eve (the bride of Adam) was almost literally the body of Adam since she was taken from him (Genesis 2:21-22).

*“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of His body.” (Eph. 5:22-30 NIV)*

*“For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.” (1 Cor. 11:8-9 NIV)*

*“Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.” (1 Cor. 11:3 NIV)*

Therefore, the principle (or pattern) of headship by husbands has its roots *deeply imbedded* in both creation (Adam being the firstborn) *and* the image of Christ and the Church. The concept of male leadership *came from God* — in the beginning.

In addition to these points we’ve already looked at, let’s continue on with some *more* facts from the Scriptures that clearly demonstrate God’s plan for male leadership in the Church and in the home was His pattern from the very beginning

The covenants that God established with His people during the time of the Patriarchs was through male heads of families. — We read in Genesis 6:18 and Genesis 9:8-17 of the covenant with Noah. Then shortly after the destruction of the flood God chose another male (Abraham) to be the “*father of many nations*” on whom He built His people (Gen. 17:4). There were also covenants with Isaac and Jacob (Lev. 26:42).

God’s pattern designating male leadership was evident through the symbolism He chose. The very symbol chosen by God to identify His covenant with Abraham and his descendants in the nation of Israel was circumcision. His covenant, although with a whole nation of people (female as well as male) was symbolized through an act related *exclusively* to males. If God had not *intended* to establish a *pattern* of male leadership, would He not have chosen something that women could also have done?

The Mosaic Age began when God made a covenant with another male — Moses.

God chose a male to lead His people out of Egypt.

God chose kings to rule His people — not queens.

With only a few exceptions, the Old Testament prophets were males. — The only prophetic writings preserved for us today are those of males.

Only two books of the Bible are named after females (Ruth and Esther) — and both of these books are believed to have been penned by males.

As we read through the pages of the Bible, it becomes more and more evident that God designated male leadership from the beginning. He designated male leadership in the Garden of Eden. He designated male leadership in the Patriarchs. He designated male leadership in the Mosaic Law. And male leadership is still designated in the New Testament. God established a *pattern* that was consistent throughout the ages. He *could* have chosen at any time to change that order and clearly call women to positions of leadership — but He didn’t. The few Old Testament exceptions where women were placed in leadership positions (Deborah and Esther) have messages other than a change in God’s direction.

Male leadership is consistent on into the New Testament. — Search as much as we wish and we will find *no* examples of women speaking publically in the New Testament in the same manner as did Peter, Paul and other males. God designated males to be Elders over His church. They are clearly to be “*the husband of one wife*” — with no reference included to “*wife of one husband.*” An Elder must “*ruleth well his own house.*” This quality is consistent with the responsibility going all the way back to Adam being the “*firstborn.*” God also designated that Deacons in His church are to be males. We might also note that Christ chose all males to be His twelve apostles. The writers of the New Testament were males — chosen and inspired by God to preserve His Word for all times. The last prophet of all times was John. God could have used this opportunity to clearly state His leadership plan had been changed and selected a female to pen the book of Revelation — but He didn’t. God’s plan would remain consistent.

So let’s summarize all of the points made in these last two issues.

- I. Adam was first born — then Eve.
  - A. Firstborn had special significance throughout the Old Testament.
    1. Family lineage — male oriented genealogical records.
    2. Family responsibility was that of the firstborn son. Firstborn daughters did not assume responsibility.
    3. Firstborn sons received a double portion of the inheritance.
  - B. Adam was a “prototype” of the leadership that God was to establish and maintain throughout all times.
- II. Woman’s creation came from Adam — not from the earth as did Adam.
  - A. God presented the new creature to Adam to be named. God did not name her as He had named Adam.
  - B. Woman’s creation was because Adam needed a helper opposite from him and because he was alone. (Genesis 2:18-23)