



LEADING LIKE A MAN

A CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE

By Skip Heitzig



Scholars today refer to our culture as a “post-marriage society.” One social scientist said the scale of marital breakdown since the 1960s in America is without historical precedent. The reasons are obvious: High abortion rates, out-of-wedlock births, high divorce rates, and single-parent homes are all contributing factors. Some cynics have floated the idea that marriage should be refashioned into a contract with an expiration date to be renegotiated rather than the biblical model of “till death do us part.” In light of this, isn’t it time for Christian leaders to be pro-choice concerning marriage?

Joshua, the leader of the Israelites following Moses, challenged the people to be proactive and make a choice concerning family values. He spoke to them not only as the leader of the nation, but as the leader of his home. He made a personal decision to make his family a priority and put the Lord first. He challenged the people to, “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” Then he clearly stated his resolve, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

Men, as the leaders of your home, this is not only a personal commitment, it’s a corporate commitment on behalf of your family: “This is what I choose as the leader of my home for all of us. We will serve the Lord.”



You can carry out this challenge with a two-pronged approach:

- **ME:** “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart” (Deuteronomy 6:5-6). First, you must make a personal commitment to serve the Lord and obey His Word. Our personal commitment affects every relationship we have.
- **MY HOUSE:** “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:7). Pass on what you’ve learned so your family will have spiritual equipment and replicate the cycle.

Two cargo boats were sailing from Memphis to New Orleans. As they launched, sailors from one boat yelled to the other, “We can beat you any day.” More words were exchanged and the race was on. The boats were neck and neck as they sailed through the deep South down the river. One of the boats fell further and further behind. She had enough coal to make the journey, but not enough to win the race. One bright sailor decided to take some cargo and put it into the furnace. He found it burned just as well as coal. So he loaded the cargo and won the race—but he lost the cargo. We have been given cargo on this journey called life: wives, husbands, children, parents, and others. Will you destructively burn your cargo so you can personally advance? Or will you stand and choose God’s ways?