

Bite Size Bible Study

Who's in Charge? #258

By Lee Logue

For several weeks I have been watching a series on the causes of airplane crashes. Yea, I know it can be and is a bit dark, but there are some very good lessons to be learned from the investigative causes of the disasters.

One of the lessons has been that someone should always be in charge and have the last say as to what procedure will be taken in all circumstances. This person is almost always the one in the captain's chair. This should be agreed upon in the preflight check. If a crisis occurs, or even something out of the ordinary, there may not be time for a discussion as to the procedure before there are no longer options to avoid disaster.

In several of the episodes there have been two pilots flying the plane. Each has many flight hours and could easily have been the captain for the flight. Without one taking full responsibility for the safety of the flight and the other accepting the secondary role there can be a difference of opinion as to the proper procedure in an unusual situation. When both try to control the actions there can be a conflict of opinions and the result is that valuable time is lost before action is taken, resulting in an emergency situation that becomes irreversible.

You might wonder how this relates to Bible Study but stay with me. Notice what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:3 NIV
*But 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.*

Jesus sits in the captain's chair – always. Next the man is to follow the captain and follow His instructions. Then the woman is to follow the man. This gives a clear chain of command and in a crisis situation, there should be no discussion as to the actions taken.

This means that each is to follow the lead of the one charged with the safety of all. When time is available or circumstances occur that don't need immediate action, there can be a discussion and each have input as to actions that may be taken. But the responsibility falls to the captain – **ALWAYS**.

Paul further amplifies this concept in Eph 5:22-33 NIV.
Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do 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 their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church for, we are members of his body. "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Paul put a lot in those two paragraphs.

1. If the husband is submitting to Jesus, then whatever submission he is expecting from his wife will be exactly what Jesus expects of the woman.
2. If the two are one, as Paul states, then what is good for one is good for the other. There should be no conflict as to what is to be done.
3. In the culture that Paul was writing in, the women had fewer options and lesser experience than women do today in our culture. It was the husband's responsibility to provide as much as possible of these options and experience to his wife.
4. When Paul mentions *and the wife must respect her husband*, he has implied that the husband through his actions respects her as well and feels the responsibility for helping her be as much as she can be – *holy and blameless*.

Often this instruction is considered to put the woman in a subservient position. This is not what Paul was advocating. In 1Tim 5:14a NIV, he says: *Therefore, I would rather the young widows get married, have children **and take charge of their homes**.*

Even in ancient Israel the woman owned the tent. It did not belong to the husband, nor did he have control over it. It was in total control of the wife.

What can happen when this chain of command is broken – DISASTER. Sometimes it is a "crash and burn" scenario. Arguments, Hurt feelings, Unruly and untrained children, Abandonment, Divorce, and even Homicide. Jesus, the captain, is not at fault. The problem lies with those in the crew that do not follow his directions.

Who is in the Captain's Chair?
JESUS
Are we listening and following?