

Christ4Men and women alike

Your article entitled 'Much hope to share for local Christian men' in CXPRESS of October refers. Roberto Boni states that "men are taking up their god-appointed roles of being the prophet, priest and king of their families".

This is good news indeed if it means that the wives of these men are also recognised as the prophets, priests and queens of their families! However, if this is an exclusive privilege that only men can enjoy, then it is imperative to discover what the Bible says about the subject.

Firstly, throughout the Bible both men and women are prophets. In the Old Testament Deborah was a prophet and leader of Israel. Other examples are Miriam and Huldah, who gave a word of prophetic direction to King Josiah.

In the New Testament Paul clearly encourages women to prophesy (1 Corinthians 11:5) and we discover Philip's prophesying daughters. One of the gifts of the spirit is prophecy and the gifts are for everyone (Ephesians 4:11). So, hey - husbands and wives can prophecy to one another!

Secondly, nowhere does the Bible state that man must be the priest of his home.

Instead, 1 Peter 2:9 tells us we are all a chosen people and a royal priesthood. Thirdly - king? There is no passage in Scripture that enthrones a husband as king of the family. Instead in the kingdom of God we are called to "servant leadership" (Matthew 20:25-28) marked with the same humility of the King of Glory who took on the very nature of a servant (Philippians 2:7).

The usual question asked is who then makes the decisions? In the conclusion to his book 'Beyond Sex Roles', Gilbert Bilezikian cautions against designating the husband as the family decision-maker: "Consistently placing responsibility for the final word on the husband is the least God-honouring method for resolving ... the decision-making impasses that occur when opinions differ.

"This puts unrealistic burden on the husband to make always the right decision, and it promotes a cop-out mentality for the wife, who then resigns herself to the status of permanent loser or of devious manipulator of the power-wielding male.

"Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, other creative methods can be found to resolve differences without resorting to the repulsive pagan practice whereby one spouse exercises control over the other."

Hopefully Christ4Men have instead opted for mutual submission where husband and wife have equal authority in Christ and they are submitting to one another in all areas of everyday life.

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