

PASTOR AND WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Part One

1 Timothy 3:1-2, 4-5

¹ This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

⁴ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

There is a great need for a pastor and his wife to be strengthened in the ministry today. God has called both of them to serve together in and out of the church. A pastor's home life is very important to the success of his church ministry. In fact if a pastor doesn't have a scriptural home he is disqualified from the office of pastor. In the last few years we have seen an increase of the pastor and his wife having difficulty in balancing their personal and ministry relationships.

I'm reminded that there are no perfect marriages or families. And that is where every pastor with his wife needs to start. Then they need to understand that everyone, including the pastors' family relationships can be improved. Until a pastor, or his wife and maybe both, see their own areas of weaknesses and their need of growth in the Lord, they will continue to struggle in their marriage and ministry.

When God calls a man to pastor He- (God), also calls his wife to be a pastors wife. That means that she is willing to follow and be a part of the ministry in a church that God calls her husband to pastor. There are many wives that go along with their husbands into the ministry but are not on board and do not have a willing heart for the church. If there is not a sense of calling for the wife as well as the husband there will be problems ahead.

Some men feel a call to preach, this does not necessarily mean a call to pastor, and the wife is either not grown in the Lord or is not willing to follow her husband as the Bible says. Then some men are not the Biblical husband that they should be in loving and leading his house and the wife sees the hypocrisy.

Please pray for your pastor and his family the devil is doing everything to create hardship and division in the home. We would like to help those couples who are struggling in the ministry in the next few weeks. Please pray for Kim and I as we try to be transparent after almost 41 years of marriage and 37 years of serving in ministry.

Bro. Mickey
SCM

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Part Two

Ecclesiastes 1:3-4 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? *One* generation passeth away, and *another* generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

Job 31:6 Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.

What shall it profit a man if he shall build a great ministry and lose his own family? Some men think that they have to build a big or great ministry even if it cost them their wife and children. This is not Biblical and it destroys not only the pastor's home but many times the church. The devil has lied to many men that they have to put the ministry first rather than their wife and family (actions speak louder than words).

The husband and wife relationship should be the closest and most intimate relationship on earth after their personal relationship with the Lord. If anyone or anything takes the place of the spouse, then the order of the home will be off balanced and problems are on the way. The Lord may have called a man to pastor, but not at the cost of losing his wife and family. If the ministry becomes priority over the wife then the pastor is off balance in his priorities (God-wife-ministry).

Just as the Holy Spirit is a unifier in the church so He is in the family also, to bring harmony, joy and peace in the home. The Bible doesn't teach that a pastor should leave his wife and family to fulfill a ministry in a church. On the contrary it teaches that a pastor should practice and demonstrate what a Christian home should look and behave like (starting with the man). This doesn't mean that everything is just perfect, but that his home and priorities are in line with the word of God as much as possible.

When God was calling me into the ministry, one of the first things that I asked the Lord to do for me in the ministry is to keep me balanced. One of the hardest things to do in ministry is to keep balanced and be consistent. Balance in the home, ministry, job (I have been by-vocational for most of my ministry life) is essential for growth and success in any of them. And with balance comes a readjusting our priorities along the way when we see that we are getting out of balance.

In the ministry we will always need to keep an outlook on how balanced is my life concerning my love for the Lord, wife, ministry and ask the Lord to help me keep my priorities straight. God bless and have a great week with the Lord and family.

Bro. Mickey
SCM

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Part Three

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain.

Proverbs 24:27 Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

If the pastor and his wife are not in agreement at home it will show up in the church down the road. This is not saying that they agree on every little thing, but on most all the decisions and especially spiritual and family, they should be on the same page. There needs to be a certain amount of growth and maturity in both the pastor and his wife so that the church will not be hindered.

Sometimes the wife is leading the husband (pastor) because of his lack of obedience to lead his home and failure to take a loving stand. I've even seen the (pastor's?) kids controlling the family and the children are making the decisions for the home. Some pastors have changed the vision and direction of the church to accommodate and keep their children interested in the church. The pastor and wife relationship should exemplify the Bible and its guide for the home. And have a loving obedience to the Lord in submitting to one another showing how the home is to prove ones ministry.

In the ministry a pastor is not a lone ranger, he needs his wife and children to be on board with him and his ministry. One pastor's wife and daughter told me that she and her daughter had wanted to leave their church for the last sixteen years (the pastor had started it 25 yrs earlier). A pastor needs to make sure that his wife is willing to follow him as he follows the Lord. There are no perfect homes, but there should be Biblical homes that honor the Lord and have a loving family.

If a pastor can't lovingly lead his own home, how can he lead the church? We need pastors who are servant leaders at home as well as at church. We need wives that are behind their husbands (pastors) and are engaged alongside of their pastor (husband) in the ministry (church) that God has called both of them to serve. God bless and have a godly week!

Bro. Mickey
SCM

PS- Please pray for our country and our leaders to overturn the Supreme Court's decision concerning marriage. May they get saved and fear God!

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Part Four

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Are we rejoicing in the peace of God?)

- Put first things first and don't sweat the small stuff, just trust in the Lord (Pro.3:5-6).

"Duties don't conflict" is what my former pastor, Dr. JB Buffington used to say to people whose lives were out of balance. God is not a God of disorder and confusion (1 Cor.14:33/40), it is always us who get our priorities mixed up that brings about confusion and conflict in the home, church or nation. Understanding our God given duties will help us sort out our priorities to live a balanced home and church life.

#1 God first - Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment. **Luke 10:27** And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

- When God is first then the wife and children will be second without any conflict of the job, ministry or anything else. When God is first He leads us to put everything else in right order. Q - Are we walking in the Spirit or lead of the flesh?

#2 Family second - 1 Tim. 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

- This means providing not just materially but spiritually and the spiritual should come before the material things. Money, things, possessions are not to have more priority than the spiritual input for our families. How's our family time?

#3 Ministries and job third - Col. 4:17 "Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it." **2 Tim. 4:5** "make full proof of thy ministry."

- Many conflicts are because we get our priorities mixed up from trying to do more than God has called us to do, or by not planning our time to do what God has called us to accomplish in the ministry or our jobs. We need to make sure that we work to "fulfill the ministry" not to accumulate wealth or material things.

Maybe we need to stop and evaluate our God given duties and make sure that they are in proper priority according to Scripture. We all get out of balance at times and need to get a readjustment from the Lord. May God bless and have a great week in the Lord!

Bro. Mickey – SCM

PASTOR AND WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Part Five

I can't say that Kim and I have it all down in the area of husband and wife (pastor and wife) relationship, we are still learning and growing in our relationship. By God's grace it's been a wonderful journey and exciting one at that. There are many good books on marriage and the home that can surely help any couples relationship if they take time to read and apply themselves (starting with the Bible).

Here are some positive tips for building any husband and wife relationship that we have learned and tried to put into practice;

Pray together – This may be hard for some men who are not used to praying with their wives. And couples with small children will have to seek out a time and place; this may mean trying different ways to make it work. But there is always a time and place if you truly want to grow in this area of your relationship with God and each other.

Read together – Again this may be challenging for you at first, but don't stop trying, there will be a time and place if you work at it. This will include the Bible and other good books and materials that are helpful for both of you to grow in your Christian life.

Work together – Some will have more opportunities than others, but every couple can find ways of working together. Around the house are many opportunities to work both outside and inside the house, some people are more geared for outside work. Working together brings a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment as you work together in any project. And working together at church in a ministry together will bring a blessing to others as well as to you.

Play together – For most pastors this will be hard because of false guilt of taking time off to enjoy life instead of working in the ministry (many pastors are work-alcoholics). Taking time to play is not wasting time, if it's done in a balanced way (there is a time for everything). Doing things to have fun doesn't have to be expensive, it can be taking a drive in the country or playing botchy ball.

Laugh together – The ministry is a wonderful calling but it is also hard and stressful at times (a lot of the time). We preach that Christians are to be joyful and yet we take the ministry many times with a downcast and serious attitude. Maybe we make it harder than it really is by putting too much or letting others put too much on our plate. Learn to laugh more and enjoy the things of God and each other. Watch a good clean comedy or have the kids or "grand-kids" play and do funny things.

Grow Old and Sweet together – Life has a lot of sour spots but the Lord can take those times and make it sweet and then we can have lemonade. One desire that Kim and I have is to grow old and sweet together. We want the Lord to use us and grow us sweeter as the days go by. So when the times come for us to be taken care of from each other or from someone else that we will reflect what a sweet Savior we have served.

May our Lord richly bless your marriage and home as you serve Him in the ministry.

Bro. Mickey
SCM