

A Look At The Minister's Wife



Introduction "CHOSEN FOR A PURPOSE"

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another." (John 15:16,17)

In this scripture, Jesus is talking to His disciples just before He went to the Garden of Gethsemane. These were the men that he had chosen to preach and teach the gospel that He came to fulfill. The scripture says, **"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain..."**

Our husbands are in the ministry. This is not the ministry of the government. It is not a business, but it is a calling! God has called them to teach and preach the gospel. Above all else, he is the servant of God. As being a servant of God, his life will touch and influence all those that he comes in contact with, either for GOOD or BAD!

We, as wives, cannot remain apart or separate from this calling. The scripture tells us in Ephesians 5:31 that when the man leaves his father and mother and is joined unto his wife, that they two shall be one flesh. **"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."** God sees us as a part of our husbands, and we are part of his calling also. We have great influence on our husbands and we will either be a help or a hindrance to him and his ministry.

"The person who holds the key to the success or failure of a minister is his wife!" This was said by an elderly minister who was greatly involved in ministry training for years. Many times, the way people look at YOU and see YOU will determine whether they will accept YOUR HUSBAND as a man of God. In fact, I read where many companies will not hire a man for an executive position until they have met his wife. The ministry is definitely an "executive" position because our God is the King of Kings! If you look at your husband's ministry as a "business", you will expect big pay with benefits like is expected with jobs in this world. And if you are looking for material things and you do not get them, you may consider your husband as a failure. When you

realize that the ministry is a calling from the Lord, you will praise the Lord for all blessings and look to Him for all necessary needs and rewards!

You may say, "Well, I am not called to be a preacher or teacher, so I'll just let my husband take care of everything."

The choice is no longer yours! If God has called your husband to preach and he is a minister, then as the scripture said, **"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you...."** And there is a purpose for you to fulfill. God wants you to yield your life completely to Him and work as a team with your husband. In God's eyes, as husband and wife, you are no longer two but one! So if your husband is called, then you have a calling too! You have been chosen for a purpose! You have been chosen to lead and instruct souls on what it takes to get to heaven and how to take others with them. It is a great blessing to know that you are needed, trusted and looked upon as a Godly woman. More than this is the fact that you have a part in leading souls to Christ and training them for service to God.

Someone once said, "The minister's wife has the most difficult job in all the world." With this thought, perhaps the most important ministry of a minister's wife is prayer! Sometimes it takes much prayer for us to recognize that we have been chosen for a purpose.

Since our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost and we are bought with a price, we are to glorify God in our bodies, and in our spirit, because they belong to God. **"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) We should look our best at all times! When we look nice, we feel nice! The following are some of the ways that we can glorify God and our husbands.

Quiet Spirit: A quiet spirit in a minister's wife shows that she is content with the leading of God's Spirit in her husband's life.

Sometimes, as the wife of a minister, we have different opinions on how our husbands handle situations in our personal lives, as well as the church. We are individuals and we have the right to our own opinion, but remember he is the minister and God has put him as the head over us. When you disagree, never make the mistake of telling him so in front of others. 1 Peter 3:4 tells us that **"a meek and quiet spirit is of a great value in the eyes of God."**

One of the greatest votes of confidence you can give your husband is to let him know through your quiet spirit that you believe he is capable of making decisions. If your husband makes a wrong decision, (after all, we all are human) remember that God is bigger than the circumstances. Ultimately, God is in control!

Appreciative Spirit: A minister's wife should always let others see that she is thankful by showing gratitude to God for everything. She should be especially thankful for her husband and his ministry.

Do not always want more than your husband can provide for you. You should be thankful for what you have. It may have been a long time since you were able to purchase new clothes or

shoes, but you can show how you appreciate what you have by keeping them clean for yourself and your family.

Be especially thankful for the people in your church. God has them there for YOU and YOUR HUSBAND to teach and train so that they can go to heaven. We are not allowed to pick and choose who God wants to hear this gospel for it is His will that all be saved. You have been chosen for a purpose.

Servant Spirit: The powerful quality of being a servant is realizing that our service to God includes our participation in ALL church functions. When we attend regular church services, the people see that we are being submissive, as we are instructed by the Word of God, and supportive of our husband's ministry. **"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."** (Ephesians 5:22)

If our husbands ask us to go with them to visit a saint who hasn't been coming to church, we should go with them. Our daily tasks of cooking, washing, etc. can be done at another time, but remember that you and your husband are a team working together with God. And for sure...if there are ladies that have not been coming to our ladies meetings, we should make it a point to see if there is a problem or if they are sick.

We should always be willing to take care of visiting ministers without murmuring and complaining! It is not always easy to have people in our home, but when we do, we should take care of them with the very best of our ability. We should always make them feel very welcome.

Reverent Spirit: To be "reverent" is to show "respect for". When we have a reverent spirit, it brings depth to our marriage because we take joy in showing admiration for our husband and his ministry.

Someone in your congregation will notice the way that you respond to your husband's sermons. Your facial expressions and the way you worship during services shows whether you respect your husband and his ministry. Sometimes we have to "learn" to enjoy our husband's preaching! After a service, let your husband know that you enjoyed the message God gave to him. If it was a "hard" message, let him know that you trust his judgment and God's! If we offer the respect and reverence in public as a sign of our submission—make sure that you practice at home!

Our first role as a woman is that of a wife. We will be wives (should the Lord tarry and give us health) for about 30, 40, or maybe 50 years. We are only mothers for about 18 years of our children's lives, as far as taking care of them and training them. Being a good mother is important, but NEVER put your children before your husband!

There are four commands to wives in **Ephesians 5:**

1. Submit to our own husbands as to Christ (verse 22).
2. Recognize the headship of the husband (verse 23).
3. Be subject to our own husbands (verse 24).
4. Reverence our husbands (verse 33).

If you can fulfill the role that God has "chosen" for you, then you will be a blessing to your husband. Remember, as the wife of a minister, you hold the key to the success or the failure of

your husband. We must follow our husband's leadership in our marriage, our home, our church and our community. Being a minister's wife can be one of the most rewarding positions or it can be one of the most frustrating ones, unless we recognize that our role as a minister's wife has been "chosen by God for a purpose."

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The Pastor's Wife

"DON'T QUIT"

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you are trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When needs are pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must—but don't you quit.

Life is difficult with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When she might have won had she stuck it out.
Don't give up though the going seems slow—
You might succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering woman,
Often the struggler has given up
When she might have captured the victor's cup.
And she learned too late, when the night slipped down
How close she was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver glow of the clouds of doubt—
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar.
So stay in the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things seem hard that you must not quit.

Do not let past failures tell you that you cannot make it. Do not listen to your flesh or the devil, but get a fresh touch from Him and let the breath of heaven's inspiration blow through your heart, soul, and mind. Do not make excuses why you cannot do it, but let faith rise up in you and shout, **"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me!"** (Philippians 4:13)

Make up your mind to never quit. It doesn't matter if you feel like it or not, just keep trying. Everyone who has ever accomplished any great thing experienced times of failure, frustration, and weariness before they finally made it. The challenge is before you—keep reaching for excellence, growth and accomplishment in God, for He is with you!