

# A Look At The Minister's Wife



## Lesson One

### "GOD SENT...MADE OF A WOMAN."

(Galatians 4:4)

**"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit." (Joel 2:28-29)**

In the end-time there will be a revival, a great outpouring of the Spirit. It is promised that daughters and handmaids will be involved. God will use those women who have prepared themselves by praying in the Holy Ghost and by building themselves up in the faith.

Just as travailing is required to bring forth a newborn baby, travailing women in the church can bring forth revival! It is of special significance that the praying that produces revival is called travailing prayer. Women who have borne children can truly understand this meaning.

**"Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." (Isaiah 66:7-8)**

**"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:26-27)**

**"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." (Jude 20)**

We have a tremendous responsibility. God wants to use each of us in some way.

**"...God sent forth His Son, made of a woman..."** (Galatians 4:4). We can be involved. Although Eve is at fault for introducing sin into the world, it is to the same woman that God gave the very first promise of redemption. **"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."** (Genesis 3:15) This promise was fulfilled through Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Throughout history God has used women. Moses was to be the great deliverer for the children of Israel, but Jochebed, his mother, was an important part of this salvation. She prepared the basket and trusted God to protect her little boy. Miriam, the sister of Moses, was hidden in the bulrushes to watch over Moses. Miriam was later the woman who led the women in singing and dancing after crossing the Red Sea on dry ground. Jochebed was able to keep Moses for several years and teach him about the one true and living God. Again we see that God, through a woman, Jochebed, and a little girl, Miriam, sent salvation to Israel. **"God sent...made of a woman!"**

We hear much about Joseph who saved the people of God during a famine. But Joseph had a mother named Rachel who was barren until she began to pray. **"...Give me children, or else I die."** (Genesis 30:1) We read about the life of Joseph and how God used him but behind him stands a woman determined to bring forth. **"God sent...made of a woman!"**

Esther was a woman who through her obedience, prayer and fasting saved the entire Jewish nation. God desires to use each of you. Yes, we are under the authority of the man, and we realize our place but can still be an important part in the work of the Lord. We can help create happy Christian homes, and teach our children the truths of God. We can be witnesses to our friends, neighbours, and families by our example of a steadfast holy life in Christ. True Christian women should be living according to the commandments of God.

- A woman was among the last ones left at the cross. (Matthew 27:55-56)
- A woman was the first one at the tomb. (Matthew 28:1)
- A woman was the first messenger of the resurrection. (Matthew 28: 8-10)
- Women were in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 1:14)

Women can be moved upon by God to fulfill His will. Revival is happening around the world. Many are hearing the truth and accepting it. We must be ready to gather the harvest. We should purpose in our hearts; "I will lead others to pray, I will knock on the doors of my neighbours, I will teach others about the Truth. I will be a vessel ready and willing to be used by God. I will do my best to walk in the Spirit and let God lead my life."

Even in all of this we can keep our rightful place under the authority of God and man, and keep a meek and a quiet spirit yielded and submissive to God.

**"But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."** (1 Peter 3:4)

**"Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the**

other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency." (1 Corinthians 7:3-5)

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." (Ephesians 5:22)

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." (Colossians 3:18)

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:" (1 Peter 3:1-5)

"God sent...made of a woman." Let God use you. We must bear spiritual children. We have the TRUTH! If we do not tell others, then who will tell them? Do we sit idly by and watch them go their way toward hell? Can we sit comfortably in our home and church and not be concerned for souls? Do you realize what an eternity in hell really signifies? We have the true joy, peace, love, and assurance of eternal life and not eternal damnation. God will use you to show others the way if you will place yourself in His hands, make yourself available to Him. It is a privilege to work for God!

# A Look At The Minister's Wife



## Lesson Two

### "THE MINISTER'S WIFE AND HER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD"

**"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."** (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Your relationship with God is the most important aspect of your life for this affects all other relationships. If you look upon the Lord long enough, He becomes a mirror to your soul, and you start taking on His characteristics and showing His attitudes. His power will flow through your spiritual blood veins giving you strength to do what He commands you to do.

#### **A. YOUR PRIVATE PRAYER TIME**

**"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."** (Matthew 6:6)

We have all desired to become better acquainted with Christ and plan to do so in the "tomorrows". Somehow from conference to conference, we push the desire ahead and continue to hold an on the surface relationship with God when He is longing to hold us close to Him. We must set aside a certain time each day to spend with the Saviour of our soul, Jesus Christ. **"But it is good for me to draw near to God..."** (Psalm 73:28).

The Lord should be in your hidden thoughts constantly. Form the habit of always mentally praying about some need or giving thanks. Do not neglect the most important part of your day. The cleaning of the soul should have priority over the cleaning of the house. Take time to love and be loved by the Lord. Prayer gives you power to overcome evil and sin, but also gives you creative power and inspirational thoughts. It is the greatest force of power in the world. This force of power and victory can wipe away a lot of bad tempers, gossipy tongues, heartaches, and broken dreams. There is definitely a real need for travailing and intercessory prayer for the great move of God that is starting to be poured out upon us.

**"If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."** (2 Chronicles 7:14) Prayer is the greatest thing you can do for your husband and the Kingdom of God.

Jesus is our best example. **"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place and there prayed."** (Mark 1:35) Sometimes our prayer time is interrupted by sickness, etc. But do your best to keep it a part of your every day schedule.

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

**"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."** (Matthew 4:10)

**"Thou shalt have none other gods before me."** (Deuteronomy 5:7)

We should not serve the god of money, materialism, selfish gain, or prestige. Jesus Christ should be number one; then He will supply our needs.

## **B. SACRIFICE**

Sacrifice although you do not feel like it and God will repay you and bless you. Give of yourself through fasting and dying out to self, and God will bless over and over again your humble efforts. Let Him use you to help others reach their potential in God. **"Be still and know that I am God:"** (Psalm 46:10) The Lord is your strength, be sensitive to His presence. He will minister to you through others, or through His creation. He will be as real and close to you as you will allow Him to be. (Lamentations 3:22-26)

## **C. READING THE BIBLE**

The second most important thing in your relationship with God is the reading of the Bible. It is a necessity if you want to grow into the person God had in mind when He created you. After you cleanse your soul with prayer, fill it with the Word of God. It will purify you and comfort you. It is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path. (Psalm 119:105) The Bible should be the very book of wisdom that controls your thoughts and actions. Keep your mind inspired by reading the Bible and other Christian literature. Jesus used scripture when overcoming the temptations of Satan. (Read Matthew 4:1-11). Scripture is also our strength in overcoming temptation.

## **D. SUMMARY.**

1. Your relationship with God is first.
2. Consciously seek to have His character traits in your life.
3. Seek God and His wisdom.
4. Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with all your soul, mind, and strength. (Eccl.9:10)

5. Be full of faith and have confidence in Christ. (Romans 1:17)
6. Be steadfast, do not be a quitter.
7. Be a compliment to your husband.
8. Reach your potential.
9. Get your own life together so you can help others successfully.
10. In all that you do, keep a good positive attitude.
11. Be faithful in everything.

# A Look At The Minister's Wife



## Lesson Three "THE MINISTER'S WIFE, A PRIVILEGED WOMAN & UNDERSTANDING YOUR HUSBAND'S MINISTRY"

### A. A Privileged Woman - Why?

"...but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." (Genesis 2:20-24)

Many have felt it significant that the Lord chose to take a bone from the side of man, close to his heart, to make the woman. Perhaps the Lord did want man to realize that the woman was to be close to him under the protection of his strong arm. The woman is special to the man and was created to be his helper and to make him complete.

Some reasons you are a privileged woman:

- ❖ To live with a man who is called of God.
- ❖ To share in helping to make the world a better place.
- ❖ To share in helping to teach men, women, and children the gospel of salvation.
- ❖ To witness despair turning into hope in many lives.
- ❖ To see homes put back together because of the miracle working power of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ To be treated special because you are a minister's wife.
- ❖ To be loved by many people, first, because of your position and then, second, just because you are you.
- ❖ You must be the best you can be for God, so you can influence others toward Him and a better way of life. REMEMBER, many people are looking to you and watching you.

We also have to realize that along with all the wonderful experiences of being a minister's wife, there are some painful experiences. Sometimes there are whisperers or gossipers who will attack the leadership of you and your husband because of jealousy.

There will also be spiritual attacks from the devil because of the success of the gospel. There will be failures, heartaches, and hard experiences. But when you know you are chosen to be the wife of a God-called man in a special ministry, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. This calls for the best in you to be brought forth by the power of Jesus Christ. You must see your responsibility to God and your position.

## **B. Understanding Your Husband's Ministry.**

### **I. You must learn that your husband belongs to God.**

- He is a servant to God's people.
- As his "help meet" you are to be the kind of help your man needs, agreeing with him mentally, physically and spiritually. **"The heart of her husband doeth safely trust in her...."** (Proverbs 31:11)
- Believe in him, and let him know you believe in him.
- Trust him, confide in him. Keep good communication.
- Pray for him and with him.
- Encourage, cheer, cooperate with, and appreciate him. No, he is not perfect, but neither are you. You are his best friend here on earth.
- Share and laugh with him. Dare to trust God with him. Be his partner in this wonderful exciting venture of life.
- Be totally committed to the Lord and ready to follow wherever he leads.  
**"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."**(Matthew 10:37-38)  
**"And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."** (Matthew 19:29)
- Keep yourself clean and attractive for your husband to come home to.

### **II. You are not the Pastor.**

- Do not be constantly giving him advice.
- Try to direct the people to him for counseling. You may think you know the answer, but he is their counselor. God talks to him and gives him answers even before he knows the problem.
- Never take advantage of your position. It is not your right to over-rule others just because of who you are. Remain humble, a servant.
- Never allow people to pressure you into a decision that should be made by your husband.
- Keep your discussions of church needs/problems in confidence.

### **III. Leadership.**

- Always remember you and your husband are the leaders.
- Leaders in Prayer, Fasting, Worship, Witnessing, Altar Work
- Remember the people you pastor will never rise higher than you and your husband in their spiritual walk.
- You must *GROW, GROW, and GROW!*

- You must set the example. Be enthusiastic about every phase of your church's activities: Youth, Ladies, Missions & Outreach, Sunday School. Give encouragement and show interest in all of these areas.
- If your church grows it will be because you and your husband have a burden and transfer that burden to your people.
- In Numbers 13, twelve men were sent to spy out the land of Canaan. Ten came back and said, "We can't do it." Two said, "We can." Immediately the people were fearful. The majority of the leadership was fearful. Many people died in the wilderness as a result.

REMEMBER, spiritual life and death is depending on you! Yes, there are some who will fall away in spite of all you can do, but the majority of your congregation will grow with you. They will soar with you to the heights of God's love and blessings.

**"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)**

Make yourself the leader God wants you to be. God chose you because He has confidence in you. You can do it through Christ Jesus! He is depending on you! Overcome your flesh, and let the Spirit reign!

# A Look At The Minister's Wife



## Lesson Four

### "THE MINISTER'S WIFE AND HER CHILDREN"

**"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalm 127:3)**

Genesis 4:1-2 gives the account of the first family, the first household created by God. A family is a place of love, security, and acceptance. Children are a gift from God, and parents should be good stewards over their children. God expects parents to love, train, and raise their children up in the way of the Lord. He trusts us to care for them and gives us many instructions on the right way to bring up our children. Some scriptures to emphasize this are:

**"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)**

**"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deuteronomy 6:7)**

**"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." (Genesis 18:19)**

**"The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth." (Isaiah 38:19)**

#### **A. Teach by example.**

- The parent's life is the child's copybook. Children learn by imitating.
- Be careful of the spirit you manifest.
- Teach them how to pray and live a holy life. Begin praying with them while they are still very young. As they grow, help them understand the importance of salvation in their own personal life.
- Read the Bible to them and tell them the stories of the Bible. Don't leave it all for the Sunday School teacher to do.
- Emphasize spiritual things in their life. Lead them to Christ.

#### **B. Teach Them To Be Responsible In Work And Handling Money.**

- Let them learn the value of money, and to spend wisely.

- In teaching responsibility, teach them to be honest, loyal, and dependable and have other good character traits.
- Be careful that you show a good example in these areas yourself.
- As they grow, they should have chores and responsibilities. Don't do his/her chore for him/her.
- Father's can teach the boys things, how to repair things, or care for the yard, etc.
- Mothers can teach the daughters how to care for the house, cook, sew, etc.
- Also parents should introduce their children to some form of musical training if possible. Develop their talents.

### C. Take Time To Listen.

- Really listen to your children's chatter. Don't just pretend you're listening.
- Don't just hear words, but try to catch their feelings and respond with wisdom.
- You must be their counselor and advisor.

### D. Teach Them To Stand Up For Their Beliefs.

- Teach them to have convictions in their own hearts.
- They must believe in the infallible Word of God.
- Teach them the results of compromise.
- Teach your children to love the Word of God, to read and memorize the Word and make it an important part of their life. Remember you are their example. They need to see you reading and studying.

### E. Discipline.

- Remember your children are growing, stumbling, making mistakes and they need your help, encouragement, and discipline. They must learn to control their spirit. **"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."** (Proverbs 25:28) Without spiritual protection, your children can easily be overcome by the devil.
- Be consistent. If you correct them for something one day, and then let them do it the next day, you have wasted your discipline.
- Don't laugh at their misbehavior. They will think you approve.
- Be positive. Don't tell them what a terrible child they are, but explain their fault in the light of the Word.
- Some scriptures to consider:
  - "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger. He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."** (Proverbs 19:15, 17)
  - "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."** (Proverbs 13:24)
  - "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."** (Proverbs 23:13-14)
  - "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."** (Hebrews 12:6)
- Never lose your temper and beat a child excessively.
- Every child is different, some are more inclined to spiritual things, some to worldly things, some are meek, others stubborn. Whatever the case, teach them obedience

and to submit to authority. Mothers, teach your children to respect their father. You are preparing them for life.

- What we are and do helps to produce the fruit of our children. Much of us becomes a part of them. Let us pray that we influence them for the good.

#### **F. Learn To Laugh With Them.**

- **"Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice."** (Philippians 4:4)
- **"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones."** (Proverbs 17:22) There are times when only laughter can clear the air of tension.
- Children love laughter and a jolly spirit.
- Try to be a joyful person, not one who walks around in a spirit of gloom and despondency.
- Even in troubles and trials laugh with your children.

#### **G. Try To Be Home When Your Children Come Home From School.**

- So many times this is how older children get in trouble. They are left alone with no supervision.
- Be ready to listen to their activities of the day.

#### **H. Help Your Children To Feel Privileged Living In A Minister's Home Instead Of Feeling A Disadvantage.**

- Be careful of your conversation. Never talk negatively about the saints in front of your children.
- Teach them right things to do because they are right before God, not just because Daddy's a preacher.
- Teach them to respect and obey their father's preaching.
- Point out to them the blessings of living in a minister's home.
- It is an honour for their father to be a minister and they need to feel this.
- Never speak negatively of other ministers in your children's hearing. Always show respect for our leaders and fellow workers.

#### **I. Togetherness**

- Plan times for your family to do things together.
- Children need to feel a sense of belonging.
- Meal times are good times to listen to your children and feel a sense of togetherness.
- **"Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."** (Proverbs 15:17)
- Share your thoughts, God's blessings, or some kindness shown you.
- Plan outings together; the seaside, a picnic, etc.

#### **J. Teach Them Proper Ways Of Behaviour.**

- To be kind to older people
- To have proper conversation manners.
- To be quiet in church.
- To have respect for authority.
- To have table manners.

- To have proper grooming and hygiene.
- To do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- To not grumble and complain.
- To have proper manners for all occasions.

**K. Last But Not Least, Let Them Know You Love Them.**

- Touch them and give them a kiss.
- Give them praise for good deeds to increase their confidence.
- Do not compare children one with the other.
- PRAY FOR WISDOM AS A MOTHER!

# A Look At The Minister's Wife



## Lesson Five

### "THE MINISTER'S WIFE AND HER HOME"

What is a home? It is not just a building of wood and bricks. The FAMILY makes the home.

- ❖ A place of safety, security, protection.
- ❖ A place of love, peace, and unity.
- ❖ A place to teach your children.
- ❖ A place of rest - your husband can come home to rest and be encouraged and strengthened by your presence.
- ❖ A real home has a mother and a father. It is not complete without either. This is God's plan. Divorce and single parenting is not God's plan for a home.

Think about your home. What is the spirit of your home?

**"It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house."** (Proverbs 21:9)

Is there peace or tension in your home?

- ❖ Is it a comfortable place?
- ❖ What do people feel when they enter your home?
- ❖ What example are you showing to the believers and people around you? People can sense your feelings in the atmosphere of your home.

The foundation of a home is your love for God and for each other. This foundation must be nurtured by prayer, and acts of loving kindness. Don't let yourselves drift apart, just as you shouldn't let yourself drift apart from Jesus.

- I. **Titus 2:3-5** - "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." (Also refer to I Peter 3:1-6). Try to appreciate your home. Wherever God calls your husband, "you" will make the home. Remember it's not the building, but the little things you do that makes it your special place. Your work in the home is very important. We know our work for God is important, but God gave us a work as women - in the home with our husbands and children. Your attitude affects your whole family.

- II. Manage your time well:** Plan your day. Try not to put things off. Some things you must do every day (cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, etc.). Make time for your children and your husband. Make time for special things, and of course for your devotions. Learn to make lists. Be organized. Learn to recognize the important things and put them first.
- III. Manage your money well:** Tithes and offerings come first. God will supply your needs! God will multiply! **"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."** (Luke 6:38) Matthew 25:14-30 gives us the parable of the talents. Use what God gives you wisely. Do not be wasteful. Do not be slothful or lazy. Study the following scriptures: Proverbs 15:19, 18:9, 21:25, 24:30-34, Romans 12:11. Ask God for wisdom. Learn to spend for the most important things and let the less needed things wait. Try not to be impulsive in your buying. Don't pressure your husband and complain about not having everything you want. You will discourage him and he cannot minister.
- IV. Preparing Meals:** If you cannot cook well, try to learn to do better. Watch and observe others. Seek new ways of preparing your meats and vegetables. Make your meals appetizing and attractive. It is important to have healthy meals. Your body is the temple of the Lord. Plan your meals. Make your money stretch. Think ahead. Make lists. Plan a variety using whatever you have available, but don't get stuck fixing the same things over and over. You should consider your husband's schedule in deciding the times of your meals. It's best the whole family sit down to eat together. Maybe you can put a small vase of flowers on the table along with a pretty tablecloth. Give thanks to the Lord together.
- V. Your Children And Your Home:** Teach them to help, to share work, and to share blessings, also to accept responsibility. Show them how to do work properly. Teach them to finish a job once it is started. This teaches them to be dependable. You should teach them good manners toward the family. Let them share in family devotion time.
- VI. Discouragement:** "Woman's work is never done, from break of dawn until set of sun." How many times have we heard that old saying? Women do have a lot requiring their attention. But don't forget your daily devotions! Take time to meditate on scriptures, and also sing while you work. Don't look at the whole day's work, everything at one time; but do one job at a time, concentrate on it and do it well.

Remember others are watching. Your home will become a place of rest and peace to others. Keep it in order and attractive. Don't be afraid to talk to God about everyday things. He cares about little things too. If you need curtains, shoes, clothes, chairs, etc., then pray about these things.

A clean home is so important. Your home is a "reflection" of you. Have a place for everything. Do little special things to make your home a place of love. Clean and mended clothes are important for your family. These things reflect your care of the home. The way your children act reflects your teaching in the home. So make sure you are giving a good "reflection" pleasing to the Lord and according to His Word and plan.

# A Look At The Minister's Wife



## Lesson Six

### **"THE MINISTER'S WIFE AND HER WORK FOR JESUS."**

**"He that is greatest among you shall be your servant." (Matthew 23:11)**

Always remember you are a servant. You will have many opportunities to use your privileged position to work for God and serve others. During your life as a minister's wife, you will be a part of many things. You may teach Sunday School, work with youth groups, play a musical instrument, do visitation and outreach, make hospital visits, teach ladies classes/groups, and help the ladies of your church raise money for the work of the Lord. You may have to make curtains for the church, or paint the walls, or clean the church. The list is endless. There are so many things to be involved in. When you are married to a preacher, it seems you are expected to know how to do all things. And we are all ever learning.

**"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Colossians 3:17)**

Do everything in the name of Jesus and with thanksgiving in your heart. You will be asked and expected to do many things. Some things will come naturally for you and you will enjoy doing it and some things will seem difficult for you. But we must do all as unto the Lord.

**"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men: knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24)**

Remember it is unto the Lord and not unto men. Remember you are a privileged woman being married to a man of God. You will be involved in many things. Keep a good spirit, sweet and humble. Let God use you. Let God shine through you. Promote God and not yourself. He will use your talents to bless the church. You can and should be a blessing to your husband's ministry.

**"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58)**

One way you can minister and be a blessing is by showing hospitality in your home or having fellowship at the church in a Sunday School room, etc. You and your husband can plan church picnics, a time for everyone to come together and enjoy the warmth and love of their brothers and sisters. This promotes unity. You could plan something special just for Sunday School teachers or other church staff and helpers. A time for them to fellowship together because they are helping you carry the burden. Plan a time of get-together for the unmarried youth of your church. They need a time together of laughing, sharing, playing games, and fellowship. Sometimes the ladies of the church enjoy a time to be together and have tea and cookies. The men should be able to get together also. Each group has special needs. These are ways to build unity and a strong friendship among the brothers and sisters. Praying together, working together, eating together, laughing together, all these build strong church families. If you do not feel you can plan something like this alone, ask some sisters of the church to help you. If you have young ministers in your church working under your husband and they are married, use their wives. This will be good training for them for the day their husband will be pastoring a church. It will help them feel needed and involved. It is important for leaders of the church to have a good feeling among themselves. You can help promote this by serving in your area of hospitality and by being warm and loving to everyone.

Another important factor for a minister's wife is where she sits. It is best for you to sit near the front. When you have small children, it is sometimes difficult to do this. But there are usually some kind ladies who are willing to help you. But when possible you need to be at the front giving your husband spiritual and emotional support. If we keep in our mind the scripture in Deuteronomy 6:5, "**Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might,**" then we will be a good example before the people. We will worship sincerely and seek to please our Lord. If we are careless in our worship and do not pay attention, people will notice.

Always be yourself. Do not try to copy someone else. Put yourself in God's hands and let Him use you and make you what you need to be.

You can be a blessing to the church by watching for those who seem a little discouraged. Try to help them by giving them a warm smile, an understanding heart and a listening ear. Pray with those in need of special prayer. Always be positive, standing on the Word of God in your advice or conversation. This is a good example for the ladies to follow. Never speak of your discontent or heartaches to the church members. Take those to your Lord and Saviour.

Getting to church in time to pray (not just to quickly say, "God bless this service.") before service starts is very important. You need this time to prepare your heart and be in unity with God for His will for the service. You must clear your mind of everything except the needs of the service. Always be a part of the altar service, helping to pray with those who come seeking the Lord.

You may be the wife of a minister, but not a pastor. Perhaps your husband is an Assistant Pastor or an evangelist. You should always try to be a help to your pastor's wife. Offer your help to her letting her know you are ready and willing to assist her. Try to learn from your pastor and his wife. Someday you will be assuming the same responsibilities. Never try to take your pastor's wife's place. You should encourage the people to love her, obey her, and work with her. Be a good example to the other sisters in the work of the church. Never criticize your

pastor or his wife before the people of the church. If misunderstandings occur, pray much about it first. Then try to work out the problem just between the four of you. Remember none of us are perfect.

Perhaps you could help the church remember the birthdays of the pastor and his family, their anniversary, Mother's Day, and a special Pastor appreciation day. Be a friend to the pastor's children. Make them feel loved and appreciated.

**"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."** (Matthew 6:33) Jesus loves you. Always put Him first.

Refer to Isaiah 29:16, 45:9, and 64:8. These scriptures tell us we are the clay and the Lord is the potter. He created you to do a special work. Give yourself totally to Him and let Him mold your life. Remember your place as a wife and mother. This is an important work and the plan of God. Take care of your husband, your home and your children.

Yes, your spiritual family is important, too. Love them and encourage them. Let love cover their faults. Help them develop into Sunday School teachers, song leaders, youth leaders, etc. Always show an interest in every part of the work of your church.

Jesus said, **"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."** (John 4:34)

**" That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"** (Colossians 1:10).

# A Look At The Minister's Wife



## Lesson Seven

### "THE MINISTER'S WIFE IS AN EXAMPLE OR MODEL TO OTHERS."

"For none of us lives to himself, and no man dieth to himself." (Romans 14:7) No matter what we do we affect other people in some way. We leave a part of ourselves with every person we meet. This makes it so important to be a good example. You are a minister's wife and people look at you as such. There are many scriptures that help us to know how the Lord expects us to conduct ourselves. We should seek to please the Lord in every part of our life.

- I. **AN EXAMPLE IN PERSONALITY.** All of us have inherited certain parts of our personality. We are not perfect so there is room for improvement in each of us. Every minister's wife should be an example in friendliness. **"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."** (Proverbs 18:24) You should seek to have a happy, contented, and friendly disposition, with enough humour to show your inner peace and contentment. You can be an example by your warm smile, your kindness, your honesty and all the traits you desire to be in the ladies you influence. If you want to see them in others, they must first be in you. The Spirit of Christ shining through you is the greatest example that you can have. The fruit of the Spirit -love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance - need to be shown in our lives. (Galatians 5:22-23)
  
- II. **AN EXAMPLE IN APPEARANCE.** Always dress modestly, and according to holiness, not exposing the body with short hemlines, low necklines, sleeves too short, or clothes which fit the body too tightly. Do not dress carelessly as if you do not care how you look, but wear clothes suited to you. Even in your home you should dress modest and neatly, with your hair combed neatly. You do not know at what time someone will come by and you are an example. Of course you must keep your clothes and your body clean. You do not want to have unpleasant body odors. Bathe daily and if possible, use deodorant or body powder to help prevent unpleasant odors due to sweating. You need to keep yourself neat and clean at home because this affects your husband. Perhaps he is among men and women during the day who are dressed neat and clean. So when he returns home it is not good if he finds you carelessly dressed, dirty, and your hair uncombed. It is not to say that you should wear your best clothes at home, but be neat and clean. Keep buttons sewed on, rips sewed up, and hems repaired.

**III. BE AN EXAMPLE IN WORSHIP.** You will unconsciously be a good example if you worship the Lord with your whole heart. When pleasing Christ Jesus becomes your supreme objective in life, and He is Lord of your life, you will be a good example. Let Him breathe new life into your heart, soul, and mind. Let Him wipe away the disillusionment, disappointment and bitterness and let the fresh breath of heaven blow across your soul. Then you will lift your hands and your heart to heaven in love and adoration.

**IV. AN EXAMPLE IN ATTITUDES.**

- i. Attitude toward church programs and leaders. Be helpful and supportive to each leader. If you hear grumbling and complaining, you try to point out the good being done. Don't add to the complaining or agree with it.
- ii. Attitude toward your husband. Always treat him with respect. Never go over his authority. Love him and people will feel it. If you resent him, people will feel this also. Read I Corinthians 13 again and let it penetrate your soul. Note verses 4-6. Love is longsuffering, kind, not envious, but love seeks the best for her husband.
- iii. Attitude under Pressure. When trials and tests and pressures come, you must keep a good attitude. Getting angry and speaking unkind words will not help at all. It is better to say nothing than say angry words. Smile, and pray through the storms. Hold your husband's hands up in prayer during the battle.

You as a minister's wife must seek to grow in knowledge of the Word and constantly improve yourself with the Word as your foundation. You and your husband as a team cannot reach your city, town, or village alone, but it is your duty to help inspire the people to reach their potential and help further the kingdom of God. You can inspire by your example, your interest, and your enthusiasm. Read Romans 12:9-21 for more about being a good example.

# A Look At The Minister's Wife



## Lesson Eight

### "THE MINISTER'S WIFE AND SUBMISSION"

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." (Ephesians 5:22-26) (Also see I Peter 3:1-6)

What is the definition of submission? Submission means to yield oneself to the power of another, to comply, to obey, or to surrender.

Ephesians 5:23 says the husband is the head of the wife. The line of command is Christ, husband, then wife. We are to submit to our husbands as unto the Lord. The husband is commanded to love his wife as Christ loved the church. When each fulfills their role then there will be a perfect relationship. But in this lesson we are speaking about the wife's part.

#### Consider some women in the Bible:

**EVE:** Eve listened to the serpent, decided to partake, and gave to Adam - she should have listened, asked her husband's advice, and accepted his wisdom. (Genesis 3:16) God planned for woman to be a helpmeet, not to be the head.

**SARAH:** Sarah listened to her own voice of dissatisfaction. She decided what she wanted to do, and then persuaded Abraham to take Hagar. The result was not pleasing to God. Like Eve, she trusted her own thinking and not Abraham's. Later she realized her mistakes. She revered Abraham, calling him lord.

**REBEKAH:** Rebekah and Isaac had a great love between them. But then Rebekah became obsessed with the desire for her favoured son, Jacob, to receive the birthright blessing. She listened to her own desire, allied herself with her son, and deceived her husband. We women must resist any inclination we might have to allow any of our children to destroy our oneness with our husband.

**QUEEN ESTHER:** Queen Esther came quietly before the King and waited for his approval or disapproval. She acquainted the king with the problem and trusted him to make a decision. She did not demand a solution. She listened to her godly uncle, made the king aware, and accepted his decision.

Our adornment should be a meek and quiet spirit. This is what God considers a beautiful woman. She doesn't compete, demand her rights, but she is secure in her rightful place. Her trust is in God. Never think that meekness is weakness. **Meekness is strength under control.**

Women are important in God's work and are an important key to revival, but we must stay in our place for God to use us. Proverbs 31 describes a virtuous woman. She was involved in many things. The point is not what she does, but what she is.

When a woman is wise, full of kind words, hard working, careful, helpful to her husband, deeply reverent in her love for God with a meek and quiet spirit, then she can do many things and be used of God as Proverbs says. She will be praised for it.

A home cannot have two leaders. We must let our husbands fulfill their role. Submission encourages our husband's love for us and lets him know you are not competing for his leadership.

Even if you feel your husband's attitude is not one full of love, this does not give you the right to ignore your commandment of being submissive. It is possible to be obedient and not be submissive. You can communicate your feelings in ways other than words.

One of the evidences of love is the desire to please the other, to discover what they value, to provide what they need, and to be what brings delight to them.

Jesus is our great example. He had all power and authority, yet He submitted. He came and humbled Himself, linking His greatness with humility, declaring that the one who would be great must become servant to all. Jesus did not submit because He was inferior. No, it was part of the Master's plan. So is leadership of the husband and submission of the wife. God says such behaviour is beautiful.

Understanding one another is very important. Keep open communications. Talk things over. Remember to keep the right attitude. You can express your opinions, but don't demand or insist on having your way. If you keep yourself beautiful with a meek and quiet spirit, this will stimulate your husband's love and he will seek to please you as you please him.