

Being a Ministry Wife

I. The High Calling of a Ministry Wife.

A. All wives help their husbands.

1. We are to be a helper "suitable." Gen. 2:18
2. Please the Lord primarily. 1 Cor. 4:1-5 1 Cor. 3:13 2 Cor. 5:10 Rom. 14:12 Col 3:23 Gal. 2:20

B. His calling becomes our calling.

1. Character qualities of a ministry wife. 1 Timothy 3:11 Titus 2:3-5
2. Character qualities of a Christian woman. Titus 2:3-5 James 3:17-18

C. Spiritual gifts.

1. Everyone has a spiritual gift. Romans 12:4-8 1 Cor. 12:1-14:40
2. Find your gift(s), then serve. 1 Peter 4:11 Matthew 25:21 2 Cor. 9:8
3. Focus on your gift.

II. How to Handle the Stresses on a Ministry Marriage.

A. How to Handle Physical Stresses.

1. Focus on commitments.
 - a. Use your gifts, let others use their gifts.
 - b. Prioritize (family, home first). Prov. 31:27 Titus 2:3-5
2. Don't add to your husband's load. Gal 6:1-5
3. Accept help from others. 2 Cor. 8:3-4, 9:11
4. Rest one day in seven. Ex. 20:9-11 1 Cor. 6:19-20
5. Take care of your body. 1 Tim. 4:7 1 Cor. 9:27
6. Arrange for longer rest periods. 1 Tim. 6:17 Matt. 11:28 Mark 6:31-32
7. Realize the different seasons in life.

B. How to Handle Spiritual Stresses.

1. Realize that God is sovereign. Job 42:1-2
2. Realize what Christ has done. 1 Cor. 1:30 Col. 1:17-18
3. Realize what the Spirit does. John 14:12-14, 15:7, 16, 16-23-24, 26 Phil. 4:13 Eph. 5:18
4. Communion with God.
 - a. Studying the Word. Ps.119:18
 - b. Prayer. Hebrews 4:16 Rom. 8:15 1 John 1:9 John 15:7b 1 Pet. 5:7
 - c. Fasting.
 - d. In trials. Phil. 3:8-11 2 Cor. 11:28 2 Tim. 2:3 James 1:2-4 Rom. 8:18, 29

III. Avoiding Temptations in Ministry.

1. Having a worldly outlook on ministry. James 2:1-9, 4:1-10
2. Wrong focus of ministry.
 - a. Examine motives.
 - b. Evaluate family relationships.

B. How to Combat a Competitive Attitude.

1. Live to please God. Gal. 1:10 1 Cor. 4:4 2 Cor. 5:9-10 2 Cor. 12:9
2. Elevate Christ's name. 2 Cor. 10:12 Heb. 13:17 Phil. 1:18 James 4:6
Luke 9:24 Phil. 2:3-4
3. Be content. Phil. 4:11-13 2 Cor. 5:18-6:10 2 Cor. 12:15 Col. 1:24, 28
4. Have a biblical view of success. 2 Thess. 3:1-2 2 Tim. 2:10 Col. 1:28
2 Tim. 4:8 1 Thess. 2:19-20, 3:8 Matt 25:21 1 Cor. 9:23-27 Acts 20:24
2 Tim. 4:7-8

IV. Conclusion.

Look to Christ. Depend on Christ. Phil. 3:9 Gal. 3:13

Resources:

One With a Shepherd: The Tears and Triumphs of a Ministry Marriage by Mary Somerville

Letters to Pastors' Wives: When Seminary Ends and Ministry Begins by Catherine J. Stewart, editor

Running on Empty: The Gospel for Women in Ministry by Barbara Bancroft