

A profound issue in Pioneering/pastoring is your marriage. What happens between you when you're going through struggles? If you are going to be a Pastor – you have to be able to Pastor your wife.

I. GOD'S PLAN FOR MINISTRY

A. God's plan for ministry is couples

1. The Bible pattern
 - a. Adam/Eve: Pattern for dominion
 - b. Abraham/Sarah: Calling/impact
 - c. Disciples: 2x2
2. Marriage isn't simply a reality (*Oh yeah – I guess she has to come*) – it is a necessity

a. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.¹¹ Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?¹² Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

B. So God's plan for your life is connected to your marriage: *Pastor: To shepherd/to lead – to care for/take care of*

1. God says a fundamental qualification of ministry is marriage (Timothy/Titus)
 - a. If you can figure your wife out/meet her needs – you can work people out – meet their needs
2. Bad husbands make bad Pastors!
 - a. Your marriage reflects who you really are: Your activity or success may cover for a time
3. This is why you're foolish to ignore your marriage

II. THE TROUBLES OF MINISTRY

A. Ministry together will have troubles

1. Job/wife: Financial/health/tragedy...things weren't going well
 - a. Ministry: *No one comes/converts fall away/financial pressures...etc.*
2. This will put pressure on your relationship: *V9 what's the point? Curse God and die!*
 - a. There are things you can't say to your people
 - b. You may not have anyone else to talk to

B. How you react will determine your future

1. **You can be insensitive to what your wife is going through**
 - a. *Oblivious to the fact that she is hurting/frustrated*
 - b. *Job's wife just lost all her kids/money!*
2. **You can resent the fact that she needs anything:** *I'm trying to do the work of God!*
3. **You can blame her for your struggles:** *View her as enemy: If it weren't for you – we'd have revival!*
4. **You can fail to meet her needs:**

C. This has impact on your ability to minister for God

1. 1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

- a. Your prayers/your labors are affected

III. PASTORING YOUR WIFE

A. So a man needs to have the ability to Pastor his wife: Care for/lead

1. **A man needs to be aware of his wife:** *What she needs in life – what she's going through at a certain time*
2. **A man needs to pray for his wife:**
 - a. *Genesis 25:21 Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant.*

3. A man needs to not over-react to his wife: Everyone will have bad days!

4. A man needs to encourage his wife: Be able to talk her off the ledge/lift her spirits

5. A man needs to be able to speak perspective to his wife

a. Job 2:10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

1. See things in their proper size...see some other things in the midst of the battles/discouragement

6. A man shouldn't give in with his mouth when his wife is going through it

a. Job 2:10 ...In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

B. When we do this – God is pleased and blesses our marriage and our ministry

1. 1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

- a. We inherit God's grace – our prayers are effective

2. Deuteronomy 32:30 How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the LORD had given them up?

- a. Victory in battle over enemy comes to “two”