**MINISTERIAL SPOUSES’ CURRICULUM GUIDE: LECTURES**

Gloria Lindsey Trotman PhD

**Lesson 1**

**So You Are a Ministerial Spouse**

Note*: Some of the material in this lesson addresses some challenges of pastoral wives. If you happen to be the husband of a female pastor, feel free to look this section over and glean any wisdom that applies to your situation.*

Introduction: *Ask the ministerial spouses the following questions:*

1. *How many of you wanted to marry a pastor?*
2. *How many of you vowed that you would NEVER marry a pastor?*
3. *Get into groups of two to four. Discuss briefly any concern you have about your role as a pastor’s spouse.*

**Refer to slides #2 and #3*.***

**Responsibilities of the Ministerial Spouse**

 One major responsibility of the pastor’s spouse is commitment. **Refer to slide #4.** Commitment is a blend of passion and dedication. It is successful when there is balance. The pastor’s spouse must be committed first to God, then to their family, and lastly to others.

 Another responsibility is sharing. **Refer to slide #5.** You will find your life is one of giving and sharing. You are constantly sharing your husband (or wife), your home, and your time. Often the pastor has little time for you and the children because there are many demanding church members and engagements. Your home often feels like it is not yours. Of greater consequence, is your time. You do not have a lot of time, but it seems as if everyone wants a slice of your time. Your time is spent waiting, in meetings, in rehearsals, counseling and the list goes on.

 The pastor’s wife has to take care of her home and the family generally. **Refer to #6.** Taking care of the home and the family involves keeping the home tidy, preparing nutritious meals, being careful about the appearance of the family, as well as being a top class entertainer. Another responsibility is grooming our children. **Refer to slide #7.**

 **DISCUSS: What are some coping strategies for dealing with these responsibilities?**

 Another area of concern is involvement. How close or distant should we be to the members? How active should we be? **Refer to slide #8.** What should be the level of our social relationships? Some of us can stand the limelight and others of us prefer to be in the shade. Is one position better than the other? What role does our temperament play in our choice to be outgoing or retiring, and withdrawn?

What about our self-image? Define self-image. Suppose you could sketch a picture of yourself based on how you feel about yourself, what would that picture look like? There are some things that shape your self-image. **Slide #9.**

Where do we go from here? **Slide #10.** We have to grow in our experience. God will help us grow in every area. He has great plans for us. Turn to Jer. 29:11. God has plans for our prosperity and enrichment. God will help us complete what we have started. Turn to Phil.1:6. Insert your name into this text and repeat it.

So you are a ministerial spouse and that’s okay! You have Help. “For I the Lord thy God will **hold** thy **right** **hand**, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.” Isaiah 41:13.