**MINISTERIAL SPOUSES’ CURRICULUM GUIDE: LECTURES**

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**Lesson 18**

**What Every Pastor’s Wife Should Know about Her Husband’s Ministry**

*Note: The following material addresses the specific 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.*

l. Pastors’ wives have to learn on the job. We learn by trial and error. We learn by being brave and observant. We just have to find ways to learn. **Slide #2**

2. Pastors want to be real men of God, not hypocrites. **Slide #3.**

3. **Slide #4**. They are human too. They make mistakes like other people. Both of you need to admit that. Do not treat him like a god.

4. **Slide #5**. You are married to a man, not an angel. Don’t expect him to be perfect. Do not expect others to consider him perfect.

5**. Slide #6**. They need converted wives to stand by their sides. Have your own connection with God. Build your spirituality.

6**. Slide #7.** They want wives who are also looking for the return of Jesus. They need to share the passion for the second coming of Jesus.

7. **Slide #8.** They need wives to support them in the ministry. The load is heavier when they have to bear it alone. Realize that he has been called. Help him in his responsibility.

8**. Slide #9**. They need regular assurance of your unfailing love. Love him and show it often. Expect him to show you his love too.

9. **Slides #10 & 11.** Family is important to them and they want to be successful in this. Both of you need to establish this belief from the start. You need to believe this too. Rank it right: God, family, the church (job).

*“Nothing can excuse the minister for neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. The spiritual welfare of his family comes first.”* *The Adventist Home, p. 353*

10. **Slide #12.** Their work is also important to them and they want to succeed in this. Do not underestimate the importance of his job. Encourage him in excellence.

11. **Slide #13.** They don’t want you to get involved with their conflicts with members. Our husbands are able to defend themselves.

12. **Slide #14.** They want their homes to be pleasant havens of rest. Let this be a family project. Strive together for a peaceful home. You are the pace setter.

**13. Slide #15.** They want their wives to be examples to the other ladies in the church. 1 Tim. 3:11; Titus 2:3-5. Exercise dignity, class, propriety and Christian womanhood.

14. **Slide #16.** They need your help to remain spiritual leaders. Rom. 16:3. Do not overlook any tendency towards being careless about his spirituality. Yes, he is the spiritual leader, but look out for gaps and inconsistencies. Gently remind him of his spiritual commitment.

15. **Slide #17.** They want their wives to know that pastors have their own insecurities. Encourage him to get professional help if he needs it. Do not be an enabler.

16. **Slide #18.** They want you to keep yourself looking attractive yet modest.Money is scarce but have a plan to buy yourself nice clothes from time to time. It is your responsibility to do this. Find a way to earn some money. “Mothers, make yourself as attractive as possible . . . Order and cleanliness is the law of heaven; and in order to come into harmony with divine arrangements, it is our duty to be neat and tasty.” (White, *Adventist Home, pg. 254)*

17. **Slide #19.** When they fail to meet your expectations, encourage them rather than criticize them. Always affirm first. Speak the truth in love. “Reverence your husband” Eph. 5:33. Avoid nagging.

18. **Slide #20.** They want and need sexually responsive wives. Sex is important to them, too. Sex is the number one need of a man. Your husband is a man. You need to be a sex partner.

19. **Slide #21.** They need you to help them manage their pastor’s salary. Study money management. Communicate about money. Be content.

20. **Slide #22.** They need your encouragement and understanding when they are depressed. Timing is important. Know what questions to ask. Men deal with problems differently. Allow them some time alone to sort things out.

21. **Slide #23**. They want you to communicate your needs clearly to them. They are not mind readers. We lose out by not being clear, honest and up front. State your expectations and feelings.

22. **Slide #24.** They want you to be their wives, not their assistant pastors. Pro. 19:14. Observe boundaries. Be professional. Be prudent.

23. **Slide #25.** They expect you to use your gifts in areas where you are comfortable. Find out where your talent lies. You could even ask someone to help you. Hone your skills. Be the best of what you do.

24. **Slide #26.** God isn’t finished with your pastor husband yet. Every pastor is a work in progress. There is no perfect pastor or husband. Phil. 3:12-14.

25. **Slides #27 – 29.** Jesus can help. He is by your side always. You have a wonderful heavenly Father who is ready and willing to help you. All you need to do is go to Him, lean on Him. Cry to Him.

“Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do; and the God of peace shall be with you” (Phil. 4:9).