**MINISTERIAL SPOUSES’ CURRICULUM GUIDE: LECTURES**

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**Lesson 19**

**Warning Signs of Trouble in a Pastoral Marriage**

*Submitted by pastoral couples*

1. Decreasing time spent with each other

2. Diminishing sex life or no sex life at all

3. Being quickly agitated and overly sensitive

4. Infrequent church attendance by spouse

5. Husband does not help with household chores anymore

6. Reduced response to affection of spouse

7. Lack of interest in things previously considered interesting

8. Loss of enthusiasm for each other (“numbness”)

9. Break in accustomed habits. e.g no longer going to bed together

10. Extreme privacy habits like not allowing one’s spouse to answer the other’s cell phone

11. Not traveling together to common destinations

12. Poor interest in one’s self

13. Appearing bored in each other’s company

14. Constant, sharp criticism

15. Deterioration in all aspects of relationships (conversation, mealtimes, etc.)

16. Spending more time outside the home with other persons, besides the family

17. Deliberately failing to fulfill roles or lack of interest in commitment

18. Reduction of attention to the spouse

19. Verbal, physical or emotional abuse whether small or great

20. Unresolved negative issues

21. Comparing the spouse to others outside the home in a negative way

22. Withdrawal or separation from each other emotionally and/or physically

 23. Lack of cooperation

24. Lack of meaningful communication

25. Loss of interest in family devotions

26. Wife’s loss of interest in housework

27. Excessive time spent on the computer viewing pornography, or chatting online with a person other than your spouse

28. Mechanical sex

29. Too much time spent with church members and on the job

30. Name calling or addressing each other coldly

31. The pastor always has certain members in his/her car

32. Problems with in-laws at home when previously there were none

33. Giving more attention to another party than to one’s spouse

34. Refusing to seek counseling or to work together on solutions for problems and issues

35. Silent treatment/withdrawal

36. Lack of interest in spiritual things:

 Not going to church together

 Not sitting in church together

 Not getting together for morning and evening devotions

 One spouse leaves the church when the other gets up to preach or take part

37. Less couple time to do fun things

38. No more love talk

39. Less affection shown

40. Reduced feelings of being romantic

41. Abandonment of common interests

42. Distrust and suspicion

43. No more celebrations of special occasions (Birthdays, anniversaries)

44. Sleeping in separate beds

45. Refusal to be seen in public together

 46. Frequent quarrels