

WHAT I WISH EVERY PASTOR'S WIFE KNEW

I. Introduction

- A. Martha's background in speaking to and counseling pastor's wives.
- B. You have wonderful opportunities to serve the Lord by your husband's side and to use the spiritual gifts the Lord has given you and to complete the good works that "God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)
- C. Some pastor's wives I have had the opportunity to counsel have really struggled. So, I came up with a list of five things that I wish every pastor's wife knew. The five things are:
 1. Be loving and not selfish.
 2. Be humble and not proud.
 3. Maximize the special opportunities that God will give you for "good."
 4. Have a double dose of respect and submission.
 5. Don't add to your husband's burden.

II. Be loving and not selfish

- A. Examples of women I have counseled
- B. Biblical Principles
 1. Selfishness is unloving. 1 Cor. 13:5
 2. People who worry and are fearful are self-absorbed instead of God-absorbed. 2 Tim. 3:1-2; Col. 3:2; 1 Peter 3:5-6; Phil.4:8; Matt.6:25-34
 3. Selfishness will diminish to the degree that you love God and others. Matt. 22:35-40
 4. Often loneliness is selfish because it is due to self-pity. Ps. 25:16-18
- C. Personal application
 1. When planning events have Plan A and Plan B. This is one way to show love as "love endures all things." 1 Cor. 13:4-6
 2. Be glad for the other people when they can have some of your husband's time as "love is not jealous." 1 Cor. 13:4
 3. You must trust God and look to the future with an anticipation of what God is going to do. Think holy, righteous, God-honoring thoughts. Phil. 4:6-8
 4. Deal with loneliness in a God-honoring way.
 - a) Don't make time and attention from your husband an idol. Ps. 73:25-28
 - b) If your husband is sinning, tell him gently and in love. Give him clear examples and ask him to pray about it and if he is sinning, ask him to repent and give God glory. Gal. 6:1; Matt. 18:15
 5. Freely, enthusiastically have sex with your husband. 1 Cor. 7:3-4

- III. Be humble and not proud.
 - A. Examples of prideful pastor's wives
 - B. Biblical principles
 - 1. God hates pride. Pro. 8:13
 - 2. Put on a heart of humility. Col. 3:12; 1 Cor. 15:10
 - 3. God gives grace to the humble and resists the proud. James 4:6
 - C. Personal application
 - 1. Think more of others than yourself. Phil. 2:3-4.
 - 2. Be willing to suffer humiliation and embarrassment for Jesus' sake even if you are never vindicated in this life. Heb. 12:1; Micah 7:9
 - 3. When criticized, say, "Show me where I'm wrong and how to correct it." Ps. 139:23-24
 - 4. Desire to be holy more than you desire to look good. Ps. 119:67
- IV. Maximize the special opportunities God will give you for "good"
 - A. Take care of your husband and use your spiritual gifts. Eph.5:15-16
 - B. When you hear privileged information, use it as an opportunity for "good." Romans 12:21
 - C. Don't be surprised when people sin! 2 Cor. 5:18-20
- V. Have a double dose of respect and submission
 - A. Scripture commands us to respect and to submit to our husband. Eph. 5:22-23
 - B. And also to our church leaders. Heb. 13:17
- VI. Don't add to your husband's burden
 - A. Help your husband, encourage him to do what's right, and remind him of the goodness of God. Eph. 4:29
 - B. Give him wise counsel but do not push your own agenda. 1 Cor. 13:5
 - C. Be more concerned about his feelings than your own. Phil. 2:3-4
 - D. Be especially kind and compassionate and give him hope. 1 Cor. 10:13
 - E. Be like the "excellent wife" in Proverbs 31.
"She does her husband good and not evil all the days of her life." Pro. 31:12
- VII. Conclusion
 - A. You can be a grace gift from God to your husband or you can ruin him and his ministry. If you are proud or selfish, disrespectful or rebellious, you will not see the special opportunities God will give you to do "good." Don't be a burden to your husband, be his joy.
 - B. 2 Thessalonians 3:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.