



FAMILY INSURANCE

PROTECTION THAT YOU CAN AFFORD!

Increasingly, I have come to realize that the family unit is the prime target of the devil. This calculated assault is not restricted to any social or professional class, rather it is being directed toward the institution itself. As recent developments in the circle of Tele-Evangelists has demonstrated, ministers are not exempt from this ruthless attack of the devil.

As a minister, it is obvious to me that more anointed teaching needs to be directed to preserving the family unit from further erosion by the liberal educators of today. The value of the institution of marriage has not changed since the creation of Adam and Eve, and as the word of God is forever settled in heaven, this value will remain unchanged throughout eternity.

WAYS AND MEANS TO STRENGTHEN THE MARRIAGE UNION

1. Develop a confessional covenant with your spouse.

What does this mean? This is a mutual agreement, either verbally or written, to share the inner problems that threaten a marriage relationship. If a spouse cannot personally deal with emotions, irritations, priorities, goals, weaknesses, and for some reason cannot openly share those problems with his/her mate, disaster is dangerously near. Intimate self-disclosure to your spouse, working within the framework of the Holy Spirit, will protect you from the powers of evil passions and temptations. This question can be rightfully asked, Who can I trust? I am convinced that a confessional covenant will strengthen confidence. Recently a renown evangelist who had fallen in sin, expressed the following circumstance, "I did not have anyone to counsel with and help me over my tormenting problem." This is an alarming revelation! Adam and Eve were naked, but were not ashamed. Otherwise, they could be transparent with one another; openly discuss their inner most thoughts with one another, and after doing so, be strengthened and not be ashamed of one another. The risk of sharing with your spouse must be taken if the marriage is to remain strong and immune from the wiles of the devil.

As a man and a woman, we must begin to pray for an "intellectual holiness" based on the indwelling divine nature of God. And this can only be done by a divine intervention, since we still are in the flesh and are in contact with the sense world. Even as we have been delivered from sin through the cross of Christ, we can also be delivered from the evil thoughts of the mind (Gal. 5:26).

2. Make room for your spouse in the ministry.

Ministry or "doing" can replace the act of "being" a husband or wife. Without a doubt, the ministerial calling is strong and in many cases, causes an urgency to come over the individual, until his/her family becomes secondary. This is a fact: a husband and a wife, whether one is called prior to marriage or afterward, at marriage that call becomes a mutual responsibility. It is a spontaneous act of the Holy Spirit. When this fact is realized, the marriage covenant can be placed under the auspices of

God Almighty.

Husband you are one with your wife. Wife you are one with your husband. There are not two divine callings in a marriage, rather only one and should be equally shared. The husband and wife do not lose their identity upon marriage, but the two of them become complete in God's purpose.

The husband is identified by God as the head of the wife, consequently, the wife becomes the body of the husband. This allegory, which was frequently used by Paul, illustrates the above point. The two are joined together to make one person in the eyes of God to complete His purpose. Who can say, "The head is more important than the body, or the body is more important than the head?" Each portion is vital to the expression of life.

Assuming that the husband is first called into the ministry; such as, an apostle, a prophet, a evangelist, a pastor or a teacher, it becomes the responsibility of that husband to lead his wife into mutually sharing that ministry, allowing the Holy Spirit to communicate the call to her. The husband, being the head of the body, calls forth the spiritual gifts of his wife. Many times the impatience of the husband will cause friction to develop within the marriage and he becomes guilty of not allowing the necessary time needed to weld the ministry into one unit.

The Lord, who commissions the workers, is never taken by surprise by any decision or act of man. The scriptures declare that we are the workmanship of God in Christ Jesus unto good works, and those works were prepared beforehand, thus God will never be caught off guard. The wife needs to understand the urgency that comes with the call of God and choose a way to bring it into balance within the family. Much of the time the urgency that is communicated to the mind is placed within the framework of time. All of a sudden, it appears that the whole salvation plan of God hinges on that one individual. That is not so! God is the one who stretches time from one day into a thousand years and compact a thousand years into one day. The wife needs to remind her husband, who is called of God, to walk in cadence with Jesus Christ.

3. Develop a ministry toward your spouse in the same respect as you do toward others.

Before this is can be done, you must realize that your spouse is a vital part of your congregation. Many ministers have a spiritual awareness about everyone but their own spouses. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not confined only to public meetings, but even unto their own families.

Prophecy is a gift of edification, exhortation and comfort. When applied toward your spouse it should be just as effective as unto a general gathering of the church. By your words of faith, release the will of God unto her, that she may be built up, pumped up, and cheered up. "Lay hands on her," tenderly, and impart the gifts of the Lord that will satisfy her personal needs.

God has so created the woman, that she is a receiver and a responder!

The husband must realize the worth of his wife before he can truly minister unto her. She is called, holy, precious. recipient of the covenant of God, irreplaceable, lovely, needed, redeemed, and destined for eternity.

The End

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