

THE PREACHER'S WIFE

I would like to recognize and honor all the ladies who are married to preachers regardless of where they are serving in the Lord's work. When one stops to think about the sacrifices these ladies make in order to support their husbands, it has to be very stressful and difficult. They have to contend with a lot of things such as late-night telephone calls, late visits to hospitals, or to the homes of people in need for whatever reason. No matter what they are trying to do, such as going out to eat for a nice quiet dinner, the phone rings continually. They sacrifice time away from their husbands, are at home alone with the children, and have to take care of things around the house normally done by the spouse. Many extra duties are shifted to their responsibility list. They have to become managers, accountants, shoppers, and chief discipliner. They put on so many different hats that they have to become mother and father at the same time. Sometimes pressure even comes from outside. Congregations sometime seem to expect them to do things that are not or should not be required from them.

Preachers do not always get the best working conditions and best paying positions, but they go because they have taken on the responsibility of doing the Lord's work regardless of where they are sent. It's usually the wife who has to contend with most of the hardship that is a result of change. I don't think I have ever heard one of the ladies complain about what has been imposed on them. They have chosen their lifestyle and they will tell you they would not change it because they believe in what they are doing. Their loyalty to their husbands and to God seems to be unshakeable. There is a Scripture in Proverbs 31:10-12 which says "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life." Please read the rest of the chapter for more insight into their role. These ladies always go above and beyond their duties.

There is an old saying that "Behind every man is a good woman." These women are the ones they are talking about. In I Corinthians 13:4-8, we find traits many of these ladies seem to have in common. So the next time you talk to one of these ladies, don't forget to say "thank you" for their hard work and sacrifice for their service to the congregation.

For the Elders,
Don Wagner