Ministry Wives—Human Assumptions and Divine Expectations

Mary Gearhart
Faith Baptist Church—Davison, MI

1 Timothy 3:2-7

A pastor is to be *above reproach* so that nothing in his life can injure his reputation.

The next phrases specifically describe what that looks like.

How can a wife help her husband meet these requirements?

Moral Requirement

-- *husband of one wife* v2, a one woman man, devoted to her, thinks only of her

Mental Requirement

-- *temperate* v2, sober in judgment, refrains from excess that dulls alertness, watchful

-- *prudent* v2, sound-minded, well-disciplined, good priorities, views world through God’s eyes, a mind controlled by God’s truth, rather than whims of the flesh

-- *respectable* v2, “to arrange”, well-ordered life

“The ministry is no place for a man whose life is a continual confusion of unaccomplished plans and unorganized activity” --Homer Kent, *The Pastoral Epistles*

-- *able to teach* v2, able to feed the flock doctrines of the faith, rightly dividing the Word of truth, teaching by example, as well
Personal Requirement

-- *hospitable* v2, "lover of strangers", being a people person, approachable, available to help.
Persecution, poverty, widows and orphans were opportunities for hospitality in New Testament times when inns were not respectable places.

-- *not addicted to wine* v3

-- *not pugnacious* v3, not a striker, not quick tempered, not reacting to difficulty with violence

-- *gentle* v3, patient, forbearing, not domineering, avoids unnecessary contention, considerate, gracious, easily pardons failure, remembers good not evil, not retaliatory
Many leave the ministry because they don’t handle criticism gently.

-- *uncontentious* v3, reluctant to fight, not quarrelsome or offensively aggressive, but peaceful

-- *free from the love of money* v3, not covetous, greedy, stingy, but keeps material things in right perspective

Home Requirement

-- *manages his own household well* vv4-5, rules excellently all the people and resources in his home so he will do the same in the church.
“The family is the proving ground for leadership skills.” --John MacArthur, *I Timothy*
keeping his children under control with all dignity v4 respectful, disciplined, children who bring honor to parents and God, not rebellious

Reputation Requirement

good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil v7
“A pastor either emasculates his preaching or gives it flesh & blood by how he lives.” –John Stott
Some Resources for Pastor’s Wives

Books on Eternal Perspective

Heaven, Randy Alcorn, Tyndale House, 2004, a life changing book for me and many of my friends
In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn, Waterbrook Press, 1999
The Law of Rewards, Randy Alcorn, Tyndale House, 2003

Books on Hospitality

Be My Guest, Vivian Anderson Hall, Moody Press, 1979

Books on Marriage & Family

Daze of Our Wives, Dave Meurer, Bethany House, 2000
   When you need comic relief, this book is great to read to your husband during a trip!
Don’t Make Me Count to Three, Ginger Plowman, Shepherd Press, 2004
   A practical application of Tedd Tripp’s Shepherding a Child’s Heart
Feminine Appeal, Carolyn Mahaney, Crossway Books, 2004
Honey for a Child’s Heart, Gladys Hunt, Zondervan, 1979, my standard baby shower gift, every mother should read during her first pregnancy, about reading to your children
Let Me Be a Woman, Elisabeth Elliot, Tyndale House, 1976, a collection of letters to her daughter before her wedding
Love and Respect, Emerson Eggerichs, Thomas Nelson, 2004
Sacred Marriage, Gary Thomas, Zondervan, 2000
Shepherding a Child’s Heart, Tedd Tripp, Shepherd Press, 1995
   How is wish I had this book when our children were young!

Books on Pastor’s Wives

One with a Shepherd, The Tears and Triumphs of a Ministry Marriage, Mary Somerville, Kress Christian Publications, 2005
The Pastor’s Wife and the Church, Dorothy Harrison Pentecost, Moody Press, 1964
They Cry, Too!, Lucille Lavender, Zondervan Publishing House, 1986
The Unprivate Life of a Pastor’s Wife, Frances Nordland, Moody Bible Institute, 1972

E-mail

To join Claudia Barba’s Monday Morning Club, go to cbarba@ipresson.com to sign up.
At www.ipresson.com – go to Claudia’s MMClub for the archives of old e-mails
Claudia writes specifically to encourage pastor’s wives about once a month.

I have found that amazon.com seems to have the lowest prices. If you order $25, many books qualify for free shipping. I’ve found that it’s easy to reach $25 by keeping a wish list folder when I hear of good books.

Mary Gearhart
ggearhart@gmail.com