

PASTORS SCHOOL

Session 1

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY MARRIAGES

Pastors School
11-10-15

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY MARRIAGES

- **As leaders you are SPECIAL TO GOD**
***“The local church is the
hope of the world.”***
YOU are the hope of the local church.
- **ALSO SPECIAL TARGETS OF SATAN**
**“Strike the shepherd, and the sheep
will scatter.”**

SATAN IS A STRATEGIST

- He attacks marriages #1.
- Foundation of society – Mystery
of Christ.

*** HAVE NO FEAR – but we must have a
sobriety and equipping concerning
marriage.**

- **MARRIAGE IS THE FOUNDATION OF MINISTRY**
(Second only to our relationship with Christ)
 - a. Qualifies us both practically and spiritually
1 Timothy / Titus

- b. Prepares us as counselors and role models.

YOU CAN'T GIVE AWAY
WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE.

You will give away what you are –
Proverbs 22:6

- c. Protects us against the temptations of
ministry & spiritual attacks.

- SATAN – “Divide and conquer”
- JESUS – “Unite and conquer.”

AVOIDING FOUR COMMON PITFALLS OF MINISTRY MARRIAGES

1. CONFUSED PRIORITIES –

- Confusing the priority of God with
ministry.
- WORDS vs. REAL TERMS/REALITY!
 - EXPLAIN: Personal relationship with
God vs. church & ministry.

WHEN CONFUSION OCCURS:

a. VIOLATES THE PRIORITY OF YOUR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY.

– *Genesis 2:24*

- Our story: COUCH
– *Jealousy and resentment.*
- Children resent church because it
takes you from them too much.

****HOWEVER:** Don't over-react, train them to worship & serve.

b. YOUR MINISTRY LOSES ITS EFFECTIVENESS BECAUSE IT IS WITHOUT AUTHORITY AND IT'S HYPOCRITICAL. Ps. 133-flow

▪ Private Integrity = Public Authority
Vs. PUBLIC SUCCESS = PRIVATE SUCCESS

- Number of powerful ministries that have suffered divorce proves that no one is the exception and not prioritizing our marriage is short-sighted and risks the long term success of everything else.

EXAMPLE OF RIGHT PRIORITIES

- God (Personal relationship) *NOT WORK*
- Spouse / children
- Church / ministry
- Extended family and friends
- Work
- Hobbies and other interests.

PRINCIPLE: You can take away a lower priority and it doesn't affect the higher ones when your priorities are right.

THE TEST: When MINISTRY becomes MORE IMPORTANT THAN MARRIAGE can you lose your marriage and it not affect your ministry? NO WAY! But you could stop ministry and still be happy at home!

PRINCIPLES FOR RIGHT PRIORITIES **IN MINISTRY:**

- a) BUDGET TIME LIKE MONEY.
 - Pay the most important people first and see what is left over VS. paying family last!
- b) BUILD DISCIPLINES AND TRADITIONS THAT PROTECT RIGHT PRIORITIES.
 - Date night
 - Family night
 - Sabbath/Quiet time

} 4 nights at home
- c) MAKE YOUR MATE A PARTNER IN YOUR SCHEDULING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
 - Huge issue with Karen and me.
- d) DON'T WORK FOR FAMILY, HOSTILE BOSSES OR ORGANIZATIONS.

Story of pastor who worked six and half days a week and on the half he was off he was on call.

- Healthy churches are built upon the foundation of healthy marriages and families -- beginning with leadership.

2ND COMMON PITFALL OF MINISTRY MARRIAGES

2. NEED TRANSFERENCE

- Ministry is about meeting the needs of others out of the overflow of our personal resources and giftings.

PRINCIPLE: ***“If you NEED them, you can’t lead them.”***

FOLLOW-UP TRUTH: ANYONE WHO BECOMES OVERLY DEPENDENT UPON US BECOMES UNATTRACTIVE TO US.

Leaders who need people too much are unattractive to follow – except by co-dependent people who need to be needed in an unhealthy way.

WE MUST NOT LEAVE HOME WITH UNMET NEEDS ON A PERSONAL LEVEL (excluding healthy social needs)

TWO LEVELS OF NEEDS:

A. Deepest needs only Jesus can meet

- Acceptance - Identity
- Security - Purpose

***PRINCIPLE OF TRANSFERENCE**

- Sets up all relationships for disappointment and failure.
(Only Jesus can be Jesus to us)
- Makes us overly dependent upon people.

B. Needs our spouse should meet

MEN

- **Honor**
- **Sex**
- **Kindred fellowship**
- **Domestic Support**

WOMEN

- **Security**
- **Communication**
- **Affection**
- **Leadership**

PLUS: Partnership; intimacy; passion

- Matthew 6:21 – TREASURE & HEART

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TRANSFER THESE NEEDS TO MINISTRY:

- Very common scenario I have seen repeatedly in ministry throughout the years.

A. WE BECOME DEPENDANT UPON THE PEOPLE WE LEAD IN AN UNHEALTHY MANNER – AND WE COMPROMISE OUR MINISTRY

- ▶ Staff person whose followers became a support group.
 - *Promoted the unhealthy & persecuted healthy people
- ▶ PASTOR and the praises of people.
 - Couldn't confront, couldn't fire and surrounded himself with 'yes' people who were inefficient and he wouldn't correct it.

B. WE TRANSFER OUR DYSFUNCTION INTO THE MINISTRY WE ARE A PART OF

- COUPLE – Church was their life and they expected it to be everyone else's. Why? Very weak marriage with problems they wanted to ignore and even proudly baptize under the banner of "great servants." SPLIT CHURCH AFTER CHURCH AND BURNED OUT

WORKERS! *They had no fruit of the Spirit and no authority!*

- Pastor and abuse of women and authority in response to his wife.

**** TRUTH:** Transference doesn't fix us. It breaks the people we lead or at least doesn't allow them to grow.

C. WE ARE SET UP FOR EMOTIONAL AND SEXUAL COMPROMISE.

- Most common reason for adultery.

D. YOU EMOTIONALLY ABANDON YOUR MARRIAGE AND YOUR SPOUSE COMES UNDER ATTACK!

- Pastors wife -- emotional adultery. Made up an imaginary man she had a mental and emotional affair with for years. This was in response to the complete emotional neglect of her husband who was a very popular pastor.

Our first responsibility is to pastor our spouse and children. If our families needs are not met it is a pretense to come to church to meet other peoples needs.

REVIEW: COMMON PITFALLS OF MINISTRY MARRIAGES

(1.) Confused priorities

(2.) Need transference

3. FALSE GUILT & CONDEMNATION

A. CONDEMNATION – Personal problems and marriage issues you feel you cannot admit.

* DON'T FEEL ASHAMED OR CONDEMNED –
SATAN WORKS IN DARKNESS.

* BILL HYBELS & COUNSELING
(Courageous Leadership)

B. GUILT – Ministry is an inexhaustible need and I am a limited quantity.

➤ **MY 3 ENCOUNTERS WITH BURN-OUT:**

Why?

1. FEAR about what people would think.

– Trying to be all things to all people.

2. Thinking God didn't want me to rest

Matthew 11 – Burden is light

3. VDP and their threats, comments and
manipulation.

I am a limited quantity and I can only do so much – the answer isn't for me to do more – it's for someone else to join the team.

4th Common Pitfall of Ministry Marriages

4. DIVISION – Di-vision

- Proverbs 29:18 - Vision brings unity
- Jesus – “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

**MANY MINISTRY MARRIAGES ADOPT
CHURCH/ MINISTRY VISION AND DON'T HAVE
ONE AT HOME!**

TRUTH: Your vision for your marriage and family is more important than your vision in ministry AND if the two are not in agreement – trying to accomplish your vision in ministry will tear you apart. KAREN & ME/ VISION RETREATS - 1ST ONE = No home vision & pull of church / Constant tension & stress

HOW TO HAVE AN ANNUAL VISION RETREAT

THE FOUR FOUNDATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY MARRIAGES

1. PRIORITY – First things first

- **Separating God and ministry**

2. DEPENDENCY – We will be true to our relationship to God and each other and not transfer our unmet needs to others outside of our home.

3. INTEGRITY – We will not be ashamed of our problems nor be manipulated by unhealthy people or unfair demands.

4. UNITY – Our ministry is a partnership and we will submit to each other in the fear of Christ.

- **YOU ARE CRITICAL TO THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH and the CHURCH IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD.**
- **YOU ARE A SPECIAL TARGET OF THE DEVIL'S ATTACKS – but his power is neutralized when we are walking in integrity.**