



**THE
PASTOR'S
WIFE**

By; James E. Hobbs, Sr.

**Printed by:
THE KING'S ADDITION BAPTIST
CHURCH
South Shore, ky**

**THE
PASTOR'S
WIFE**

**BY JAMES E HOBBS, SR., PASTOR
THE KING'S ADDITION BAPTIST CHURCH
SOUTH SHORE, KY.**

INTRODUCTION

I prepared this sermon to preach at the annual Bible Conference on Sept. 4, 1999 at The Grace Baptist Church in the Winston Salem, NC area. Several people knew that I did not have time to finish all the material that I had prepared on the subject and so it was suggested that I put it out in a booklet form.

I appreciate those who made this suggestion and decided to attempt to do so, even though I am not a writer. Please understand that I have added more material to make this booklet.

I have not seen many books on the subject nor have I heard many sermons on it. I did get quite a bit of help from a book entitled *"Leadership for women in the church"* by Susan Hunt & Peggy Hutcheson. (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mi.)

Most of my information came from observing my wife as she has spent most of her life as a preacher's wife. I was a preacher when we married and we have been blessed to have been married over 50 years at the date of this publication. (It was our 50th wedding anniversary on Dec.31,2000). She has always done a great job as a pastor's wife and has indeed been a help meet to me. I have also had the privilege of knowing many other pastors and have observed their wives and the wife's role in his ministry.

Perhaps this booklet will be of some help to a pastor, his wife, the members of his church, and any young lady desiring to be a Pastor's Wife.

JAMES E. HOBBS, SR., PASTOR
THE KING'S ADDITION BAPTIST CHURCH
SOUTH SHORE, KY. 41175
Church (606) 932- 4741
Home (740) 259- 2402

THE PASTOR'S WIFE

“ And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof; ...but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

GENESIS 2: 18-24

“ This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ... one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)”

1 TIMOTHY 3: 1-5

While thinking about this message, several ideas came into my mind. One was that I would be sure to point out that the pastor's wife must be a woman. While some may think this to be funny, I am sorry to say that it is very disturbingly serious. I have decided to go in a different direction , however, and look at it from the help meet side.

Most people never think about the fact that when a church calls a man to serve as her pastor, they are in essence calling his wife as well. (Allow me to explain here. Several years ago a young man told me that he felt that the Lord was calling him to be a missionary to some foreign field. Then he said “ I hope the Lord calls my wife as well”. I quickly informed him that if the Lord called him, he can rest assured that she is included in that call, because she is to go where he goes.) When a man is called as pastor , she is a part of him- his help meet. The respect for the office of the pastor must also be seen in the respect for his help meet. While most of the wives in the church can set a definite schedule for meals,etc., the pastor’s wife cannot. Her husband is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There’s hardly a meal goes by but what he gets a phone call or someone needs to see him. When the pastor hurts, she hurts also. She is just as nervous as he is when he prepares to preach. While he is preaching she is listening and praying for him.

HELP MEET. The word that was translated “help meet” in our text is one that was translated “help” in other passages. **“Our soul waiteth for the Lord: He is our help and our shield.” (Psalm 33:20).** This verse shows us that the role of helper is not an inferior role. God promises that He is our helper as well. Women have been created and equipped to be helpers - to lovingly protect, support, shield, sustain, deliver, comfort, give hope, and bless. Proverbs 14:1 shows that a woman of great wisdom has a building influence on those around her. **“Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.”** Paul said, **“ I commend unto you Phoebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: that ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she has been a succourer of many, and of myself also.” (Romans 16: 1,2.)** The pastor’s wife can and should be a great help to

the women in the church.

LEADERS.

Please understand that there is a difference between leadership and management. (NOTE: all managers should be leaders but all leaders are not managers.) Managers plan, organize, delegate, and control. They direct others, or, in other words, they call the shots. Leaders are able to influence others even if they have no formal authority. The pastor's wife falls into that category automatically when he takes the role of pastor.

A leader must have (1) vision, called goals or dreams, (2) passion to serve her Lord, her church, and her husband, and (3) commitment, or a desire to be obedient to God's will.

A leader, then, is one who has a desire to serve the Lord in the proper place - in His church and in her home- keeping in mind that God arranges His churches as He sees fit. "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him." (1 Cor. 12:18). Please note that in verse 28 "helps" (or being a helper) is included as part of the spiritual gifts. There is always something every one can do -PRAY for instance. A pastor's wife is by virtue of her position a leader among the women of the church. Please pardon the personal application, but I need to give an example here. Our church has a fellowship meeting on the first Saturday of each month where we serve refreshments in our fellowship hall. I make a list of each month and assign a woman of our church to be in charge of refreshments. She is responsible to make the menu, set the table, serve, and clean up afterwards. She puts a list out at church of food items needed and the ladies sign to provide certain items. My wife is always there to assist her in every way that she can, (Teaching by example). Sometimes we have a "pot-luck or covered dish dinner". She works with the ladies of the church to make sure we have a good variety of meats, vegetables, breads, and dessert.

The Bible tells us that women must be taught. **“ The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” (Titus 2:3-5)**

Please note that the things they are to be taught is not just the doctrinal teachings that should be taught in the Bible study classes on Sunday. These are lessons that deal with everyday life. People will automatically look to the pastor's wife and observe her life in respect to these things.

SOME QUALITIES TO DEVELOP

At this time let me give you some qualities that all women should develop, but especially the pastor's wife.

1. FAITH “ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly father knoweth that ye have need of these things, But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” (Matt. 6:31-34). It does not matter what happens in the life of the pastor the people are watching to see what kind of reaction that he and his wife have about it. The pastor's wife must exhibit complete faith at all times.

2. OBEDIENCE (to God) “ For they themselves shew us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” (1 Thess. 1:9). (And to your husband)
“ Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” (1 Pet. 3:6). The female role in obedience extends to God first but also then to her husband. It is this part of obedience from which many women rebel. This is a commandment from God and must be adhered to as well as any other commandment.

3. HOSPITALITY (Availability). One of the requirements of a bishop is that he be “Given to hospitality” (1 Tim. 3:2) His wife must therefore be an example of being hospitable and show hospitality at all times. Most women can pick and choose when they wish to entertain others. The pastors wife never knows when some preacher or missionary is going to show up. “ After these things Paul departed from Athens and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla;

(because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.” (Acts 18: 1-3). Please note that they had just been kicked out of Rome and arrived in Corinth and Paul (a preacher) shows up to stay - not just for a few hours or even a few days but “...he continued there a year and six months, teaching the Word of God among them.” (Acts 18:11). This is what I mean when I say availability no matter what is happening in your home or life.

4. **ADAPTABILITY** Again let us note Aquila and Priscilla in this. “ And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila: ...” (Acts 18:18) Please notice that they were willing to leave and go with Paul. A pastors wife must be ready to leave when he is called elsewhere. Or in other words be able to adapt to whatever situation comes along.

5. **ANTICIPATION** While traveling with Paul, Aquila and Priscilla came to a place called Ephesus and met a man called Apollos, “... an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, ...” (Acts 19:24). They heard him, saw his potential, and noted his weakness, and verse 26 tells us that they “...took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.” A good pastor’s wife looks for those who needs help or encouragement and helps her husband as he works with them. (Her help might just be providing a cup of coffee or a piece of dessert while they talk, or it might consist in her joining in when they talk about the Scriptures.)

6. **TEACHING** (Not necessarily in the class room but in life.) “ The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober (*or responsible*), to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husband, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” (Titus 2: 3-5) These are things that God says must be taught to the younger women as they grow up. In order to teach them, the pastor’s wife must live according to these verses also..

Please keep in mind that Aquila and Priscilla did not in any way attempt to take away Paul’s authority or position as they worked with him for he said, “Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:” (Rom. 16:3). The Psalmist says, “ Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; ...” (Ps. 25:15). When our eyes are upon the Lord we are free from the snare of self-centeredness, self-interest, and self-promotion.

The main way that a pastor's wife can teach is by her life, for example her response to difficulties that come up in her life teaches others whether she has faith or not. Her manner of dress shows that she has respect for herself, her husband, and her Lord. "Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them in all things; not answering again; not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." (Titus 2: 9,10). " In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." (1 Tim. 2:9,10). " Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement." (1 Pet. 3:3-7). " Abstain from all appearance of evil." (1 Thess. 5:22). Please note what the Bible says about some garments. " And behold there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart." (Prov. 7:10). God is obviously telling us that a godly woman will not dress in such a way as to give the appearance of a harlot. I believe, as does my wife, that the Bible is perfectly clear that a woman should wear a headcovering in church, therefore she wears one even if nobody else is doing so. She is not trying to put anyone down but simply obeying God regardless of what others do. This is a perfect example of her teaching obedience to the Lord and to others.

SOME EXAMPLES TO CONSIDER

1. A church once called a meeting of the men to discuss a serious problem. A lady in the church told the pastor that she would provide coffee for them. In the meeting, things were not going as smooth as they should, so the pastor suggested a coffee break. When they came into the kitchen they found the coffee ready and a beautiful tray of cookies. On the cookies was this note, "Enjoy, I am so thankful for godly men who are willing to serve our church. I will be praying for you as you meet. Leave your mess. It will be my privilege to clean it up." The impact of that note was immediate and they took care of the problem very quickly.

2. Mary and Martha Luke 10: 38-42 . “ Now it came to pass, as they went , that He entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard His word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Both women honestly desired to serve the Saviour. Mary wanted to sit at His feet and learn of Him while Martha wanted to exercise her privilege of hospitality. Both is right and neither is wrong. The problem is that Martha proceeded to the point that she did not spend any time at the feet of Jesus and the result was an unloving attitude. Activity without a loving attitude is not being helpful. Martha became distracted by all that she thought needed to be done and lost her focus. Doers often struggle with the proper order of piety and practice. They become so involved in the task that they begin focusing on it rather than on Jesus. It creates an atmosphere of competition (see verse 40). “Nobody else is doing anything but me,” etc. Therefore Martha was not satisfied with Mary and was disappointed which most always degenerates into disapproval towards others and the Lord. “Lord, don’t you care...?” . Mary, on the other hand, should have helped Martha with some of the work so both could sit at the feet of Jesus and still show hospitality. So you ladies, when you see the pastor’s wife, who has to be both Mary and Martha, burdened with the business of providing for someone, give her a hand so she too can “sit at the feet of Jesus.” The pastor’s wife has to discipline herself to be concerned with being hospitable and yet take time to sit at the feet of Jesus, which is oftentimes a big task.

Allow me to close with a quote from someone (and I don’t know who said it), “MEN ARE THE HEAD BUT WOMEN ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THE CHURCH”. The pastors wife must be the leader and teacher of the women of the church by her life and actions as well as through teaching the Bible.

(The end)

