

SECTION 6

The Family Life of the Minister

“BUILDING A CHRISTIAN FAMILY”

Marriage - What Did God Intend?

I. **BIBLICAL PEOPLE**

1. People committed to the family Colossians 3:18-21
2. People committed to each other John 13:34-35
3. People committed to life-long love 1 Cor. 13; Phil. 1:9-10
4. People committed to God's will Romans 12:1-2

II. **BIBLICAL PURPOSES**

1. Complete Companionship Genesis 2:18-23
 - A. Keys
 1. Communication
 2. Conflict Resolution
 3. Commitment
 - B. Times of Crisis
 1. Arrival of children
 2. Adolescence period
 3. Empty nest
 4. Death of a loved one
2. Sexual Fulfillment 1 Cor. 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4
3. Responsible Parenting Psalm 127,128
4. Family Unity Deuteronomy 6:4-25
5. Church Symbolism Ephesians 5:18-33

III. **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES**

1. Monogamy Genesis 2:24-25
2. Fidelity Matthew 19:1-9
3. Heterosexuality 1 Cor. 6:9-11
4. Mutuality 1 Cor. 7:1-7; Gal. 6:2; Phil. 2:3-5

“Biblical people become biblical partners who can become biblical parents.”

“WHEN CHRIST IS LORD OF THE HOME”

Colossians 3:18-21

- I. **WIVES WILL YIELD TO THEIR HUSBANDS.** 3:18
 - 1. Wives will give their submission to their husbands.
 - 2. Wives will give their adoration to the Lord.

- II. **HUSBANDS WILL LOVE THEIR WIVES.** 3:19
 - 1. Husbands will provide the best for their wives.
 - 2. Husbands will avoid bitterness towards their wives.

- III. **CHILDREN WILL HONOR THEIR PARENTS.** 3:20
 - 1. Obedient children will bless their earthly parents.
 - 2. Obedient children will please their heavenly Father.

- IV. **PARENTS WILL ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN.** 3:21
 - 1. Parents should not unfairly demean their children.
 - 2. Parents should not unwisely discourage their children.

**“WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN: How to be the
Husband God Meant You to Be”**

**Ephesians 5:25-33
1 Peter 3:1-7**

When a Man Loves a Woman:

- I. He will care for her by loving her Ephesians 5:25-33
 - 1. His love will be sacrificial 5:25
 - 2. His love will be sanctifying 5:26-27
 - 3. His love will be sensitive 5:28
 - 4. His love will be satisfying 5:29-30
 - 5. His love will be specific 5:31-33

- II. He will care for her by knowing her 1 Peter 3:7
 - 1. She needs a spiritual leader Psalm 1
 - 2. She needs personal affirmation/appreciation Proverbs 31:28-31
 - 3. She needs romance Song of Solomon 6:4-10
 - 4. She needs intimate conversation Song of Solomon 2:8-14
 - 5. She needs honesty and openness Ephesians 4:15
 - 6. She needs home support and stability 1 Timothy 5:8
 - 7. She needs family commitment Ephesians 6:4

7 WAYS TO BLESS YOUR WIFE

A husband can be a blessing to his wife by loving her as Christ loved the Church and giving her specific gifts of love:

- 1. Be a spiritual leader.**
Be a man of courage, conviction, commitment, compassion, and character. Take the initiative in cultivating a spiritual environment for the family. Become a capable and competent student of God's Word and live out before all a life founded on the Word of God. Lead your wife in becoming a woman of God, and take the lead in training the children in the things of the Lord (Psalm 1; Eph. 5:23-27).
- 2. Give her personal affirmation/appreciation.**
Praise her for personal attributes and qualities. Praise her virtues as a wife, mother, and homemaker. Openly commend her, in the presence of others, as a marvelous mate, friend, lover, and companion. Help her feel that, to you, no one is more important in this world (Prov. 31:28-29; Song of Solomon 4:1-7, 6:4-9, 7:1-9).
- 3. Show her personal affection (romance).**
Shower her with timely and generous displays of affection. Tell her how much you care for her with a steady flow of words, cards, flowers, gifts, and common courtesies. Remember, affection is the environment in which sexual union is enjoyed and a wonderful marriage developed (Song of Solomon 6:10, 13; Eph. 5:28-29, 33).
- 4. Initiate intimate conversation.**
Talk with her at the feeling level (heart to heart). Listen to her thoughts (i.e., her heart) about the events of her day with sensitivity, interest, and concern. Conversations with her convey a desire to understand her, not to change her (Song of Solomon 2:8-14, 8:13-14; 1 Peter 3:7).
- 5. Always be honest and open.**
Look into her eyes and, in love, always tell the truth (Eph. 4:15). Explain your plans and actions clearly and completely because you are responsible for her. Lead her to trust you and feel secure (Proverbs 15:22-23).
- 6. Provide home support and stability.**
Take hold of the responsibility to house, feed, and clothe the family. Provide and protect, and do not feel sorry for yourself when things get tough. Look for concrete ways to improve home life. Raise the marriage and family to a safer and more fulfilling level. Remember, the husband/father is the security hub of the family (2 Tim. 5:8).
- 7. Demonstrate family commitment.**
After the Lord Jesus, put your wife and family first. Commit time and energy to spiritual, moral, and intellectual development of the children. For example, pray with them (especially at night by the bedside), read to them, engage in sports with them, and take them on other outings. Do not play the fool's game of working long hours, trying to get ahead, while your children and spouse languish in neglect (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:19-20).

SUGGESTIONS WIVES MADE TO HUSBANDS

How To Make Romance and Sexual Relations More Meaningful

1. Show more affection; give attention throughout the day; come in after work and kiss me on my neck and ask me about my day.
2. Spend more time in foreplay; love, play, and romantic remarks are important.
3. Encourage and be open to the sex act at various times rather than always at night when tired.
4. Be more sympathetic when I am really sick.
5. Be the aggressive one instead of waiting for me to make the first move.
6. Accept me as I am; accept me even when you see the worst side of me.
7. Tell me that you love me at times other than when we are in bed; phone sometimes just to say, "I love you!" Do not be ashamed to tell me, "I love you," in front of others.
8. While I am bathing or showering, find soft music on the radio or dim the lights and light a candle.
9. Treat me as your wife, not as one of the children.
10. Honor Christ as the Head of our home.
11. Write love notes occasionally; send homemade love cards.
12. Talk to me after intercourse; make caresses after intercourse and hold me.
13. Be sweet and loving (at least one hour) before initiating sex.
14. Show an interest in what I have to say in the morning.
15. Do not seem as though you are bored with me in the evening.
16. Help me wash dinner dishes and clean the kitchen.
17. Go to bed at a decent hour, rather than staying up late and watching television.
18. Say sweet little nothings and be silly.
19. Bring me a flower or candy occasionally, when you can afford to.
20. Occasionally buy me lingerie, perfume and so forth.
21. Pay romantic attention to me (hold hands, kiss) even during relatively unromantic activities (television watching, car riding, walking in the mall, etc.)

22. Help me feel that I am sexually and romantically attractive by complimenting me more often.
23. Tell me what you enjoy when you are excited; express your desires more openly; share yourself more fully with me.
24. Try not to ejaculate so soon. Let me know my sexual satisfaction is a priority with you.
25. Express appreciation for the little things I have done that day (e.g. say the meal was good, that you appreciate the tidy house, etc.)
26. Pray with me about problems and victories you are having; let me express my own needs with you.
27. Appreciate the beauty of God's creation and share this appreciation with me.
28. Take more of the responsibility for getting the children settled so I can relax and share more of the evening with you.
29. Be patient with me; do not ridicule my slowness to reach climax. I enjoy the time we share.
30. Do not approach love-making as a ritualistic activity; make each time a new experience. Do not let love-making become boring by doing the same things over and over; try new things or new places.
31. Never try to make love with me when you are harboring bad feelings toward me or you know things are not right; let there be harmony between us so that sexual intercourse can indeed be an act of love.
32. Make me feel that I have worth as a person (not just as a wife and mother), warts and all!
33. Think of something nice to say about me and do in front of others often.
34. Demonstrate agape love as well as eros. I need both.
35. Spend some quiet times with me, just sharing life.

PUT YOUR HUSBAND WHERE YOUR HEART IS: THE IRRESISTIBLE WIFE

Ephesians 5:21-24, 33

Put Your Husband Where Your Heart Is By:

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| I. | <u>Honoring him with your submission.</u> | Ephesians 5:21-24;
1 Peter 3:1-5 |
| II. | <u>Honoring him with your admiration.</u> | Ephesians 5:33;
1 Peter 3:1-5 |
| 1. | Your husband needs admiration & respect. | Ephesians 5:33;
1 Peter 3:6 |
| 2. | Your husband needs sexual fulfillment. | Proverbs 5:15-19;
Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1;
1 Corinthians 7:1-5;
Hebrews 13:4 |
| 3. | Your husband needs home support. | Proverbs 19:13; 21:9,19;
25:24. |
| 4. | Your husband needs an attractive wife. | Song of Solomon 1:8-10;
2:2; 6:13-7:9 |
| 5. | Your husband needs a best friend. | Song of Solomon 8:1-2,6 |

5 WAYS TO BLESS YOUR HUSBAND

A wife can be a blessing to her husband by honoring him as the Church honors Christ and giving him specific gifts of love:

1. Give him admiration and respect.

Work to understand and appreciate his value and achievements as his wife. Remind him of his capabilities and gifts and help him maintain his walk with God and also his self-confidence. Be proud of your husband, not out of duty, but as an expression of sincere admiration for the man you love and with whom you have chosen to share your life (Eph. 5:22-23, 33).

2. Provide sexual fulfillment.

Become an excellent sexual partner to him. Study your own response to recognize and understand what brings out the best in you; then communicate this information to your husband, and together learn to have a sexual relationship that you both find repeatedly satisfying and enjoyable (Proverbs 5:15-19; Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1; 1 Cor. 7:1-5; Heb. 13:4).

3. Cultivate home support.

Create a home that offers him an atmosphere of peace and quiet and refuge. Manage the home and care of the children. The home should be a place of rest and rejuvenation. Remember, the wife/mother is the emotional hub of the family (Prov. 9:13, 19:13, 21:9, 19, 25:24).

4. Strive to be an attractive wife.

Pursue inner and outer beauty in that order. Cultivate a Christlike spirit in your inner self. Keep yourself physically fit with diet and exercise, and wear your hair, makeup, and clothes in a way that your husband finds attractive and tasteful. Let your husband be pleased and proud of you in public, but also in private (Song of Solomon 1:8-10, 2:2, 6:13-7:9; 1 Peter 3:1-5)!

5. Become his best friend.

Develop mutual interests with your husband. Discover those activities your husband enjoys the most and seek to become proficient in them. If you learn to enjoy them, join him in them. If you do not enjoy them, encourage him to consider others that you can enjoy together. Become your husband's best friend so that he repeatedly associates you with the activities he enjoys most (Song of Solomon 8:1-2, 6).

SUGGESTIONS HUSBANDS HAVE MADE TO WIVES **How To Make Romance and Sexual Relations More Meaningful**

Adapted from: *Toward A Growing Marriage* by Gary Chapman (pp. 156-159)

1. Be attractive at bedtime - nothing in the hair or strange on the face. Wear something besides granny gowns and pajamas.
2. Be aggressive occasionally.
3. Be innovative and imaginative.
4. Do not be ashamed to show you enjoy being with me.
5. Do not always be on a time schedule that places sex when we are both physically tired.
6. Dress more appealingly when I am at home (no housecoats, slippers, etc.).
7. Do things that catch my attention: remember that a man is easily excited by sight.
8. Communicate more openly about sex.
9. Go to bed earlier.
10. Do not make me feel guilty at night for my inconsistencies during the day (not being affectionate enough, etc.).
11. Prolong the joy of intimacy.
12. Be more aware of my needs and desires as a man.
13. Allow variety in the time for sexual intimacy (not always at night).
14. Show more desire and understand that caressing and foreplay are as important to me as they are to you.
15. Do not allow yourself to remain upset over everyday events that go wrong.
16. Relax with me at least once a week.
17. Stop trying to look romantic rather than being romantic.
18. Clear your mind of daily things (today's and tomorrow's) and think about the matter on hand - love.

19. Do not try to fake enjoyment. Be authentic in your response to me.
20. Do not try to punish me by denying me sex or by giving it grudgingly.
21. Treat me like your lover.
22. Listen to my suggestions on what you can do to improve our sexual relationship.
23. Forgive me when I fall short of what I should be.
24. Tell me what I can do to be the sexual partner you desire.

NOURISHING YOUR LOVE

Adapted from Marie Pierson's article in *Virtue*.

Think back to what first attracted you to your husband and:

1. Show him admiration and appreciation.
2. Nurture his friendship.
3. Lower your expectations. (You married a real human person!)
4. Watch your priorities. (Is he number one after Jesus?)
5. Enhance your love life.
6. Be forgiving. (Even as God in Christ has forgiven you. Eph. 4:32)

SEVEN WARNING SIGNS OF A FAILING MARRIAGE

Warning Sign #1 - A Marriage may be in trouble when God's role for the husband and wife are reversed or abused.

Warning Sign #2 - A Marriage may be in trouble when marital love fails to develop into true intimacy.

Warning Sign #3 - A Marriage may be in trouble when the marriage is not being nourished by regular and adequate communication.

Warning Sign #4 - A Marriage may be in trouble when forces outside the marriage are allowed to encroach on the all-important time that is necessary to maintain a healthy marriage relationship.

Warning Sign #5 - A Marriage may be in trouble when personal needs are being met more and more outside the marriage.

Warning Sign #6 - A Marriage may be in trouble when the wedding vows are considered conditional and marriage is no longer considered a sacred institution.

Warning Sign #7 - A Marriage may be in trouble when divorce begins to be considered as a possible solution to a rocky marriage.

WARNING SIGNS OF INFIDELITY - Bob and Cindy Hicks

1. Feeling of "going through the marriage motions."
2. Inventing excuses to visit someone of the opposite sex.
3. Increasing male/female contacts in normal environments (e.g.: work, choir, recreation).
4. Being preoccupied with thoughts about another person.
5. Exchanging of gifts with a "friend" of the opposite sex.
6. Making daily/weekly contact with someone by phone.
7. Putting yourself in situations where a "friend or employee" might become more.
8. Having to touch, embrace or glance at a person of the opposite sex.

WHEN TO GET HELP FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Many couples who experience the common ups and downs of married life often hear stories of other couples whose marriage ended in divorce and wonder about their own marriage. One of the most common post-mortem statements made by couples is, “We should have gotten help sooner.”

The truth is that help, especially solution-focused counseling, could have made a huge difference. The key is knowing when to seek counseling.

Although the following list of symptoms is not exhaustive, these are common areas of difficulty for couples who need marriage counseling in order to preserve their marriage.

1. When children become the exclusive focus of your attention.
2. When you find it easier to discuss your feelings with another member of the opposite sex than your spouse.
3. When your marriage is characterized by the dominance of one partner.
4. When blaming, shouting, sarcasm or threats are regular practices.
5. When substance abuse is an issue.
6. When your spouse is constantly irritable and has frequent unexplained absences.
7. When you have trouble trusting your partner’s motives.
8. When sexual or financial issues are ignored or are a constant battleground.
9. When physical or sexual abuse occurs.
10. When you or your partner are violating previously held moral or ethical standards.

HOW TO LOVE YOUR CHILDREN AND LET THEM KNOW IT

“Most of us love our children, but that is not the issue. The issue is: do your children feel loved?”

(Charles Lowery)

WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN BY:

1. Entering into their world. (note the example of Christ - Phil. 2:5-11)
2. Loving our mate. (Eph. 5:25-33; Tit. 2:4)
3. Giving them discipline. (Prov. 13:24; 17:10; 29:15)
4. Looking at them. (Prov. 20:12)
5. Touching them. (Eccles. 3:5)
6. Spending time with them. (Deut. 6:7-9)
7. Listening to them. (James 1:19)
8. Being courteous (respectful) to them. (Matt. 7:12)
9. Having fun with them. (Prov. 15:13; 17:22; Eccles. 3:4)
10. Letting them go and develop wings. (Eccles. 3:6)
11. Admitting when you are wrong. (James 5:6)
12. Introducing them to the perfect parent. (John 1:12)

“HOW TO BLESS OTHERS”

God has so constructed us that we have emotional and physical needs that can only be met by affirmation, acceptance as to intrinsic worth, encouragement, and unconditional love. We all have the desire and need to receive “the blessing” from others. Others include both our heavenly Father and our earthly brothers and sisters. Both are essential if we are to receive true holistic blessing(s).

The essential elements of the “the blessing” include the following:

1. **A meaningful touch** - This includes handholding, hugging, kissing, and all types of bodily contact that have the purpose of communicating love, affection and concern.
2. **Spoken word** - This element can demonstrate love and a sense of worth by the time involved, and the message(s) delivered. Its positive and repetitive nature is crucial.
3. **Expression of high value** - This involves our passing along a message to others that affirms their intrinsic worth and value as persons. Praising others as valuable is the key idea.
4. **Picturing a special future** - This is the uniquely prophetic aspect. What do our words tell others we believe the future holds for them? How do our present descriptions (nicknames) of others lay the foundation for future attitudes and action on their part? How often it is that children fulfill the earlier expectations and predictions of parents and friends, for good and bad. Positive words of encouragement as to future possibilities and expectations are those which will bless rather than curse .
5. **An active commitment to see the blessing come to pass** - This characteristic is both God-ward and man-ward. Godwardly, we are to commit others to His blessing and will. Manwardly, we are personally to make the commitment to spend whatever time, energy and resources necessary to bless others.

adapted from *The Blessing* by Gary Smalley and John Trent

THE MAN EVERY FAMILY NEEDS
(Qualities Every Family Needs To See In Dad And Why)
Deuteronomy 6:1-9

1. One who is saved and seeking a daily walk with God (John 1:12; Matt. 5:6; Gal. 5:16; Gen. 5:24; 6:9). It creates in the family a hunger for God.
2. One who loves unconditionally (1 Cor. 13). It builds acceptance and security.
3. One who spends quality time with his family and listens to them attentively (1 Tim. 3:4-5; James 1:19-21). The family gains a sense of self-worth and esteem.
4. One who seeks to provide for the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of the family (1 Tim. 5:8). It provides a healthy environment in the home.
5. One who loves mother and shows it in word and action (Eph. 5:25; 33; 1 Tim. 3:2). It builds security in the life of the family and provides a beautiful model for the children.
6. One who exercises godly leadership (Psalm 1; 1 Cor. 11:3; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Tim. 3:4). It teaches children respect for authority; it teaches a son how to be a godly leader of his wife and a daughter how to be a godly helper of her husband.
7. One who disciplines in love (Eph. 6:4; Heb. 12:5-13). It builds a good relationship with the children and prepares them for their future responsibilities and relationships. Correction ultimately belongs to the father.
8. One who fulfills his promises (Num. 30:2; Prov. 6:16-10). It builds trust, faithfulness and responsibility in children.
9. One who confesses his failures and is willing to say, "I am sorry. Will you forgive me?" (James 5:16). It creates openness and respect by the children towards Dad.
10. One who has a forgiving spirit (Col. 3:13). It creates the assurance of genuine love for your children.
11. One who expresses gratitude and appreciation to God and others (Col. 3:15). It builds an attitude of gratitude in the family, and fosters joy and unity.
12. One who has a servant spirit and is more concerned about others than himself (Matt. 20:26-28; Phil. 2:3-4). It builds a family attitude of humility and willingness to serve others just like Dad.
13. One who honors the Bible as God's Word in attitude and action (Psalm 119; James 1:22-25). It will build respect for God's Word and it will also build respect in the children for a Dad who reads, studies, and obeys God's Word.

14. One who lives by scriptural priorities, principles, and convictions and teaches them to his family (Deut. 6:5-9; Joshua 24:15; Acts 5:29; 2 Tim. 3:14-17). It will encourage family members, especially the children, to form their own biblical convictions, and live by them.
15. One who prays for and with his children (1 Thess. 5:16-17; James 4:1-3; 5:16). It will teach the family to trust in and depend upon God to meet their needs and to be their source of joy.
16. One who speaks positively of God (Rom. 11:33-36; Jude 24-25). It builds faith and confidence in the God we know, love and serve.
17. One who is Spirit-filled and has as his life's number one goal: to be like Jesus (Rom. 8:28-30; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:18). It will give the family a visible example of a godly, Christ-like man. For the example to be the husband/father is most pleasing to our Lord and Savior.

FOURTEEN CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

1. **Reputation**- Reputation determines how you are seen by those you would influence. This is about the exterior but it radiates from the person on the inside. It is about how you present yourself. It is about self-confidence. Are you worthy of attention?
2. **Courage** - Courage comes in two forms: physical and moral. Moral courage is a fundamental requirement of all effective leaders. It is a commitment to doing what is right, a devotion to inviolate principles. Leaders worthy of respect do the right things, in the right way, for the right reasons. People still respect honesty, trustworthiness, equity, and honor.
3. **Decisiveness** - Leaders are decision-makers who know how and when to act. Do not confuse decisiveness with inflexibility. There is a difference between changing a course of action on the basis of developing conditions and just failing to be consistent.
4. **Dependability** - Good leaders are genuinely concerned for the welfare of those they are leading. They are role models. Leaders do not have jobs to which they can come and go. Leaders are dependable people - all the time.
5. **Endurance** - Leaders exhibit physical stamina and can endure sustained hardship. Endurance involves patience. It means going the distance, taking the long view for the greater good of an organization. Endurance means staying with things, even when the going gets rough.
6. **Enthusiasm** - Leaders infuse energy because they exude positive energy. Enthusiasm is more than just attitude. It permeates the work at hand. Enthusiasm is contagious - and doubly so when it originates from a figure whom people respect.
7. **Initiative** - Leaders are never satisfied with the status quo. They can think and act outside of the box. They provide vision and act insightfully.
8. **Integrity** - Integrity is who you are in your soul. It is more than a manifestation of your honesty. It is a litmus test of respect - it determines whether you will be taken seriously or not. Fail the integrity test and you will fail to be a positive influence.

9. **Judgment** - Leaders decisions are based on all the available facts. It is important that rational and comprehensive thought be included in the decisions-making process. Decisions boil down to a matter of judgment, and the key to sound judgment is taking the time to duly consider the issue at hand. This approach is not at odds with being decisive. It is at odds with acting hastily.
10. **Fairness** - There are few quicker ways to lose a following than to appear arbitrary, biased, partial or unfair. Standards are essential. Set them, articulate them, model them and hold everyone to the same measure equally. Let people know what is expected.
11. **Knowledge** - A significant key to effectiveness is staying current in our profession. Strive for continual self-improvement. Read. Attend seminars. Take courses. Listen. Remember, it takes commitment.
12. **Loyal** - You cannot build or gather loyalty. It must be given to you freely by those you lead. You earn loyalty in two ways. First, you exhibit character worthy of loyalty. Your reputation is important. We follow those we admire and respect. Second, to be worthy of allegiance you must exhibit loyalty yourself. Loyalty flows two ways. If you are not sincere in caring about those over whom you have authority, how can you expect them to care about you or what you are trying to accomplish?
13. **Tact** - Good people skills go a long way in the art of leadership. No one appreciates an uncaring dismissal or a careless evaluation. Where and how we communicate can be as important as the words themselves. The old adage of “praise in public and reprimand in private” is an axiom of effective leadership.
14. **Unselfish** - Be accessible. Followers need to know that their leader has their best interests at heart. Perception is nearly as important as reality. You know you have their best interests at heart, but that is not enough. They must know it. Demonstrate a strength of character. Be an example on which others can pattern their lives.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

“If a preacher is not first preaching to himself, better that he falls on the steps of the pulpit and breaks his neck than preaches that sermon.” - John Calvin

“Although 90% of pastors like their work, two out of three feel stressed out by the workload at least once a month. Working an average of 55 hours per week, pastors typically spend 14 hours a week preparing for and leading worship services and prayer meetings, 13 hours in sermon preparation, 9 hours doing counseling and visitation, and only 6 hours in prayer and personal devotions (but 66% said they would spend more time on these last two activities if they could).” - Pastor's Weekly Briefing (Apr. 10, 1998): 2.

In a survey of 1,000 US Pastors, it was discovered:

90% of pastors work more than 46 hours per week.
75% report a significant stress-related crisis at least once in their ministry.
40% report a serious conflict with a parishioner at least once a month.
70% do not have someone they consider a close friend.
50% have considered leaving the ministry in the last three months.
80% believe pastoral ministry has affected their families negatively.

And in other recent surveys:

- A church that has fired a pastor has a 70% chance it will do the same to the following pastor.
- 50% of those who go into full-time service drop out in five years.
- The profession of “pastor” is near the bottom of a 1995 survey of most respected professions, just above “car salesman.”
- 94% of clergy families feel the pressures of the pastor’s ministry.
- 64% of church members expect a minister and family to live at a higher moral standard than they do.