
WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN ELDER'S WIFE?

I. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- A.** The Bible makes no direct comments on any special role for elder's wives with the possible exception of 1 Timothy 3:11. (NIV)
- B.** General principles that have special implications for elder's wives:
1. Husbands (elders) and their wives are "one flesh". We share one another's successes and disappointments.
 2. Husbands (elders) and their wives are members one of another, sharing a common purpose, but contributing different functions.
 3. Husbands (elders) and their wives share rewards, equally. I Samuel 30:24; I Corinthians 12:22-27
 4. God directs our paths.
 - a) He means it for good. (Genesis 50: 19-21)
 - b) He will make our paths straight. (Proverbs 3:6)
 - c) He directs our steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

II. COMMON CONCERNS OF AN ELDER'S WIFE.

A. Personal Perception

1. Is my husband adequate?
 - a) The Elders believe so.
 - b) The Congregation has affirmed him.
 - c) We believe God has raised him up.
2. Is my family what it should be?
 - a) We are not expecting perfection.
 - b) We do anticipate an exemplary family, dependent on much Divine grace.
3. Will we have the same freedoms as before?
 - a) Time?
 - b) Will our friendships be altered? How?

B. Possible Perceptions of Others

1. Will others now perceive me as in a different category?
2. Will they expect me to be a leader too?

C. Don't Forget

1. You are a Christian, wife, and mother - first.
2. Victories are shared victories.
3. Disappointments are shared disappointments.
** It is ours to carry only a share of the "ups & downs".

III. MATTERS TO BE RESOLVED OVER TIME

A. Time

Periodic reviews of schedule are necessary. How much time can this person, marriage, and family afford to devote to the congregation without depleting its own resources?

B. Confidentiality

How openly should an elder share privileged information with his wife?

1. Is the information assumed by those involved to be strictly confidential?
2. Would this information put my partner in an awkward position?
3. Would this information open the door to the possibility of the wife becoming an absentee elder?
4. Would it be edifying?

**Couples do not all handle these matters in the same way. Caution is advised.

C. Authority

When questions are addressed to you which ought to be directed to an elder, or some other person, don't get caught in the middle! Say, "I don't know", or "You'll really have to talk to... about that". Don't hesitate to say, "this is what I think... but, perhaps the elders have some information or reasons for doing what they're doing that I don't know about."

IV. THE ROLE OF AN ELDER'S WIFE

To use the gifts God has given her for His glory, and to support her husband as he does the same.