

# Ideas and Suggestions for the Wife of Newly Ordained Priesthood



Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
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# Preface

Congratulations! Your husband has been called into the holy priesthood of the holy order of God, for the first time. This is a great honor for him and for you. It is a wonderful time in your lives for the Lord to choose now to bestow this honor.

The purpose of this booklet is to help you, a first-time priesthood member's wife, to understand your husband's new position and how you can help him. This booklet is meant to educate you through scripture, suggestions and ideas. We pray that this information will be helpful to you. God bless.

*~The Women's Council 2020  
Compiled by Angela Collins*



*Please note all scripture references in this book are from the Inspired Version of the Bible. Also, D&C is the abbreviation for Doctrine and Covenants.*

## **Opening Statement from the First Presidency**

To any couple, a priesthood call to the husband may bring about some concerns. The husband may be feeling that he is not worthy and perhaps wondering how he is going to fit the ministry into his time schedule. He may wonder how this calling might change the relationship with his wife.

The wife might also be wondering how this calling is going to change the status-quo of the family. But if both members of the relationship will focus on God, He will take care of the changes.

As the couple moves into this new situation, one thing should be remembered – be kind and grace-filled toward one another. This is just the beginning and perfection does not need to be in place in the beginning. This is only one step toward becoming who God wants us to be. Our relationship with God begins or began at some point and with His help, it will be forever becoming as He sees it. Grace is always shown to us from God. Therefore, grace should always be shown to each other. Sometimes, a list of how we “should be or should do” makes us feel inadequate. If we take one step at a time, what God wants for us becomes possible.

The relationship of a husband and a wife is under the direction of God if both are striving to be as God wants. Adding a priesthood ministry is usually the result of both parties working together to be ready for the work ahead. It is a response as much as a future challenge. Christ shows us constant affection notwithstanding our imperfections. That example should also be in our marriages.

## **Opening Statement (continued)**

Matthew Henry has this to say in his comments about Ephesians 5:21-33:

“The love which God requires from the husband on behalf of his wife will make amends for the subjection which He demands from her to her husband; and the prescribed subjection of the wife will be an abundant return for that love of the husband which God has made due.” (Page 1857, Matthew Henry’s Commentary in One Volume, Zondervan 1961)

Do not be discouraged as you go into this new ministry together, God has called you both. Wives, it may be true that your husbands will be called upon to leave your side and to be less available toward your family. But God will bless the family for it if both are focused upon Him. Husbands don’t neglect the needs of your wives and children, they are your sacred stewardship.

The First Presidency,  
Terry Patience, President  
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## Helpful Scriptures

I Corinthians 7:29 “But I speak unto you who are called unto the ministry. For this I say, brethren, the time that remaineth is but short, that ye shall be sent forth unto the ministry. Even they who have wives, shall be as though they had none; for ye are called and chosen to do the Lord's work.”

Alma 9:69-73 “And thus being called by his holy calling, and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God, to teach his commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into his rest, this high priesthood being after the order of his Son, which order was from the foundation of the world: Or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity, according to his foreknowledge of all things. Now they were ordained after this manner: Being called with a holy calling, and ordained with a holy ordinance, and taking upon them the high priesthood of the holy order, which calling, and ordinance, and high priesthood, is without beginning or end; thus they become high priests forever, after the order of the Son, the only begotten of the Father, who is without beginning of days or end of years, who is full of grace, equity, and truth. And thus it is. Amen.”

Alma 10:9-10 “Now these ordinances were given after this manner, that thereby the people might look forward on the Son of God, it being a type of his order, or it being his order; and this, that they might look forward to him for a remission of their sins, that they might enter into the rest of the Lord.”

## What is a Calling?

Familiarize yourself with the Scriptures on calls and priesthood. What is the definition of call or calling? A call is a request or command to come or assemble: invitation, summons; demand; claim; or request.<sup>1</sup>

### Scriptures on Priesthood Calls:

1 Corinthians 1:26 (not many chosen)

1 Corinthians 7:20 (magnify your call; husband loves and cares for his wife as Christ cares for the Church)

1 Corinthians 7:29

1 Corinthians 7:32-33

Philippians 3:14 (prize of the high calling)

2 Thessalonians 1:11 (worthy of this calling)

2 Timothy 1:9 (called us with a holy calling)

Hebrews 3:1 (partakers of the heavenly calling)

2 Peter 1:10 (make calling and election sure)

Alma 9:69-73 (Lord God ordained his Holy Order to teach these things unto the people)

D&C 16:5a-g (the first apostles called in the Quorum of Twelve in the Restoration)

D&C 23:4d,e (attend to thy calling and magnify thine office)

D&C R-147:5a (every man called to priesthood office to magnify his calling)

A call is a request or invitation from God through a priesthood member, having authority, to a man, a baptized member of the church, to join the holy priesthood. The man has a choice to accept or decline the call. If the man declines, the call ends there. If he accepts, then he is presented to the congregation and voted on. If accepted, then he is ordained to a certain office of the priesthood. Your husband has completed this already.

# What is Priesthood?

## **Scriptures on Priesthood:**

Exodus 40:15 (everlasting priesthood)

Numbers 25:13 (covenant of an everlasting priesthood)

1 Timothy 4:14-16 (don't neglect the gift of priesthood)

1 Peter 2:5 (are built up a spiritual house, an holy  
priesthood)

1 Peter 2:9 (a chosen generation, a royal priesthood)

Mosiah 9:57-59 (priesthood labor with their own hands  
for support)

Alma 10:13 (many who were ordained...was on account  
of their exceeding faith and repentance)

D&C 35:3 (commandment...every man who will  
embrace it...be ordained)

D&C 68:2 (a literal descendant of Aaron has legal right  
to hold keys to the Bishopric)

D&C 83 (two priesthoods...magnify their calling)

D&C 84:3-4 (the priesthood has continued through the  
lineage of your fathers)

D&C 102:10 (let those be chosen that are worthy)

D&C 119:2 (shall study to approve their ministrations to  
the people)

D&C 122:16 (equal in worth of position and place in the  
work of the Church)

D&C 125:8 (word 'elders'=Melchisedec Priesthood  
only)

D&C 132:3 (priesthood and consecration)

D&C R-157:6a (my priesthood...purge yourself of these  
evils)

D&C R-159:2 (all are of one priesthood, but different  
offices)

Priesthood are individual men sharing authority from God in different offices to perform the sacred ordinances of our Church for eternity.

Just a note: Priesthood is not a “9-5” position. You will need to stay flexible and faithful. If an elder, your husband could be called at any time day or night to administer or pray for others. If he holds an Aaronic priesthood, he can be called upon for the administering of angels.

## What is a Woman and Wife?

*“A woman’s heart should be so hidden in God that a man has to seek Him to find her.”*

*~Max Lucado*

The next suggestion would be to familiarize yourself with scripture on women and the wife. What is the definition of a woman and a wife? A woman is an adult female person; a wife is a woman: a married woman.<sup>1</sup>

### **Wife:**

Proverbs 18:22 (findeth a good wife)

Proverbs 19:14 (a prudent wife)

Matthew 19:5-6 (cleave to his wife)

Ephesians 5:22-23 (wife submit yourself)

1 Peter 3:1-8 (duty of wife)

### **Women:**

1 Corinthians 11:3 (head of the woman is the man)

1 Corinthians 14:33-35 (women not permitted to rule in Church)

1 Timothy 2:9-15 (women adorn themselves in modest apparel...nor to usurp authority over the man)

Titus 2:3-5 (women...becometh holiness, teach the young women...keepers at home)

Jacob 2:36 (man have but one wife)

### **Daughters of Zion:**

D&C 127:3

D&C R-157:5a

### **Family Unit:**

D&C R-162:8b

### **Hand Maidens & Women’s Duties:**

D&C R-157:5

### **Some of the qualities of a Godly woman:<sup>2</sup>**

- She prays daily
- She builds up her family
- She speaks with wisdom
- She reads the Word daily
- She displays Godly conduct
- She is a doer of God's Word
- She has a gentle and quiet spirit
- She is obedient to what God tells her to do and not to do. (Proverbs 31:10-31)

### **5 of God's desires for women based on 1 Peter 3:3-6:<sup>3</sup>**

- Gentleness – a humble attitude softened by knowledge of God's grace
- Quietness – confidence in the Lord that leads to wise speech and kind action
- Hope – trust in God's sovereignty and second coming that gives joy
- Faithfulness – determination to do good and obey God in love
- Fearlessness – having courage in light of God's steadfast promises

### **Traits of Godly character in Women:<sup>4</sup>**

- Generous - 2 Corinthians 9:11-12
- Light Hearted – Proverbs 17:22
- Shows Godly beauty – Proverbs 31:30
- Humble – Isaiah 66:2
- Modest – 1 Timothy 2:9
- Confident – Proverbs 31:25
- Wise – Proverbs 31:26
- Reputable – Proverbs 31:23
- Trustworthy – Proverbs 31:11
- Dependent on God – Matthew 4:4
- Patient – Romans 12:12

- Speaks truth – Ephesians 4:15

When a wife strives to model Christ, she influences her husband with her Godly behavior. What is the role of a wife?<sup>5</sup>

1. The wife is to be discreet.\*
2. The wife is to be chaste.\*\*
3. The wife is to be the keeper of the home.
4. The wife is to be spiritually minded.

Proverbs 31:10-31

Matthew 19:5-6

Acts 4:9-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-10

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Ephesians 5:22-32

1 Timothy 2:12-14

1 Timothy 5:11-14

Titus 2:3-5

1 Peter 2:1-8)<sup>5</sup>

1 Peter 3:1-4

*\*Discreet is showing good judgment.*<sup>1</sup>

*\*\*Chaste is virtuous, pure, celibate, pure in thought, modest.*<sup>1</sup>

### **10 descriptions of a wife's role:**<sup>6</sup>

1. Respect him – Ephesians 5:33
2. Be submissive – Colossians 3:18
3. Obey him – Titus 2:5
4. Have a gentle and quiet spirit – 1 Peter 3:1-5
5. Be his helper – Genesis 2:27
6. Love him – Titus 2:4
7. Please him – 1 Corinthians 7:34
8. Do him good – Proverbs 31:12
9. Keep the bedroom hot – 1 Corinthians 7:2-5
10. Be faithful – Exodus 20:14

### **5 things to pray when you want to be a better wife:**<sup>7</sup>

1. To have my spiritual eyes and ears open to hear the needs and desires of my husband.
2. To have confidence in myself first, not man.
3. To be a woman of grace and wisdom.
4. To win with action, not words.
5. To walk in my anointing.

### **“The wise wife”:**<sup>8</sup>

Identifying the source of wisdom and yielding our will to the word of God will cause one to be wise.(Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 9:10) Growing in wisdom takes time (Proverbs 31:26; Proverbs 10:13; Proverbs 17:21).

10 steps to becoming a wise wife:

1. Fear the Lord
2. Study the Word
3. Study your [husband]
4. Be slow to speak
5. Be slow to react
6. Seek Godly counsel when needed
7. Listen to your [husband]
8. Listen to the Holy Spirit
9. Trust the Lord
10. Speak with kindness

### **“The patient wife”:**<sup>8</sup>

(Psalms 27:14; Psalms 37:34) When I purpose in my heart to be a patient wife, I not only bring honor to my guy, but I bring honor to the Lord. What I’m conveying to the two of them is that I trust them. A patient wife will remember 3 very important truths:

1. God is not finished with her yet.
2. God is not finished with her husband.
3. God uses our circumstances and trials in our lives to mold us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ

### **“The content wife”**:<sup>8</sup>

God’s taught me a lot about being a content wife, and the key issue is this... it’s not about your circumstances. It’s not about your man, your home, your finances, or yourself. It’s about how you’re living for Jesus Christ. (John 16:33) It’s how we handle our circumstances that will make the difference in our hearts. We can either be bitter or better. It’s our choice.

I remove myself from friends that bring me down; walk away from conversations centered on griping and complaining. (1 Corinthians 15:33). When I focus on Christ, this is where I get my strength and joy – which ultimately leads to a content heart. He’s molding us into women who rely on His Truth, rather than women who rely on our emotions when faced with hard times. (Philippians 4:12)

A wife doesn’t become content based on her circumstances because we all know that life doesn’t stay the same. I have learned when my soul is anchored on God and not on my circumstances; then I become a confident wife. And when I seek to glorify God with my life by surrendering to His will instead of mine, then contentment naturally spills from my heart. Do whatever it takes to feast on contentment today because this is the pursuit you’ll never regret! (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

### **“The confident wife”**:<sup>8</sup>

Did you know that nowhere in the Bible it talks about self esteem or having self confidence? These thoughts and attitudes are worldly words. It’s our own worship of self that brings us to our problems.

When I think about the whole self esteem issue, I see it as an idol of one’s heart. We become so focused on self

rather than Jesus Christ. We put our viewpoint on the throne of our lives and when we take this approach, we often hinder our ability to either serve the Lord or serve others because our selfish thoughts hold us captive. Our view becomes all about us.

Instead of looking inward, we need to look upward! Who does God say you are? (Genesis 1:27; Psalms 134:2; Deuteronomy 32:10; Psalms 139:14).

Ponder within:

- What are your thoughts regarding the above verses?
  - Do you believe these truths?
  - Do you think it wise to compare yourself to others?
  - Is your viewpoint of yourself hindering your marital relationship? How about your relationship with the Lord? Are you dishonoring God when you dwell on your insecurities? If so, do you feel like you're telling God He screwed up and made a mistake when He made you?
  - Are you placing yourself above others?
  - What verse(s) do you need to cling to and memorize?
- I've learned that my insecurities fade when I focus on my Maker. When I focus on myself, my insecurities manifest even more!

Place Christ at the center

I don't really seek to become a self confident wife, instead, I seek to become God-confident. Self-confident is fleeting but God-confidence will last a lifetime.

The life of a Christ-centered wife isn't about our strengths and weaknesses, rather it's about who we point others to. When we're busy lifting up Jesus Christ for all to see, then this pursuit will smash and shatter the idol of self. (John 12:32)

When we let our insecurities dictate our lives, we're essentially giving the enemy a foot hold. We're allowing our insecurities to keep us from building God's kingdom.

Move forward with a Biblical perspective. I still battle my insecurities and therefore I need to turn to the Word. I need to wash my mind in the Word of God, daily! (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Who will you allow to speak into your heart and mind? Will it be your thoughts or the Word of God?

### **7 daily habits of excellent homemakers:**<sup>9</sup>

1. Trust God with your schedules.
2. Find joy and humor every day.
3. Give thanks intentionally.
4. Keep the big picture in mind.
5. Be gracious toward yourself.
6. Be a life-long learner.
7. Take good care of yourself.

### **25 tips I want to share with younger wives:**<sup>10</sup>

1. Hold hands whenever you can.
2. Pray for him every day.
3. Look for the many ways to love on him.
4. [Cease] complaining. (Philippians 2:14)
5. Never give up on each other.
6. Be patient with him. (1 Corinthians 13:4)
7. Cultivate your friendship.
8. Show him respect. (Colossians 3:13)
9. Confess your sins to one another.
10. And then forgive freely.
11. Make friends with people who will encourage your marriage.
12. And avoid those who pull against you.
13. Go to the Word of God for the best marriage counseling.

14. Focus on those things which are true, pure, and lovely.  
(Philippians 4:8)
15. Give him – and yourself – room to grow.
16. Let little irritations go.
17. Keep the home fires burning.
18. Stand by your man.
19. Make loving him your priority.
20. Speak kindly to him. (Proverbs 16:24)
21. Express appreciation for the man he is.
22. Protect your marriage.
23. [Do not hesitate to express affection through kissing.]
24. Decide you're going to stick together. (Mark 10:9-10)
25. Put on love, above all things. (Colossians 3:14)

### **9 biblical tips for marriage:**<sup>11</sup>

1. Remember God is your perfect spouse. (Isaiah 54:5)
2. Be committed to your marriage. (Genesis 2:29-30)
3. Be prepared for spiritual attacks. (Ephesians 6:11-12)
4. Guard your heart against temptations. (Proverbs 4:23)
5. Be faithful in prayer. (Romans 12:12)
6. Be a loving spouse. (1 Corinthians 13:7)
7. Be thankful in everything. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
8. Own your part of the conflict. (Psalms 139:23-24)
9. Forgive, forgive, forgive. (Matthew 18:21-22)

### **10 things I have learned about marriage:**<sup>12</sup>

1. Preparation is good, but investment is everything.
2. Love, even when you don't feel like it.
3. Things happen, be flexible and faithful.
4. Keep your eyes on Christ no matter what.
5. Justifications are useless and hurtful.
6. Don't ever stop playing with each other.
7. Prayer is essential, do it every day.
8. Marriage is a target.
9. Marriage has a purpose.
10. Good community is crucial.

**20 little things to make a big difference in your marriage:**<sup>13</sup>

1. Greet him warmly.
2. Offer a kind word.
3. Give thanks.
4. Speak the truth.
5. Look at the bright side.
6. Shrug off small annoyances.
7. Snuggle together.
8. Serve cheerfully.
9. Pray for each other.
10. Listen carefully.
11. Apologize humbly.
12. Kiss on the lips.
13. Laugh at each other's jokes.
14. Give a soft answer.
15. Step away together.
16. Smile at him.
17. Forgive fully.
18. Spend time together.
19. Build up.
20. Decide you're going to love each other.

**Love your husband:**

*When he is sad, cheer him. When he is noble, praise him. When he is generous, appreciate him. When he is talkative, listen to him. When he comes or goes, kiss him. Your loyal love will work wonders in your marriage. ~ Jim & Elizabeth George*

### **Praying for your husband from head to toe:**<sup>14</sup>

- 🙏 HIS HEAD – to look to You, Lord, as Lord of his life.  
(1 Corinthians 11:3)
- 🙏 HIS MIND – to have Christ’s mind.  
(1 Corinthians 2:16)
- 🙏 HIS EARS – to hear Lord, Your still, small voice.  
(1 Kings 19:12)
- 🙏 HIS MOUTH – his words to be pleasing to You,  
Lord. (Proverbs 19:1)
- 🙏 HIS NECK – to humble himself before You, Lord.  
(James 4:10)
- 🙏 HIS HEART – to love and trust You, Lord.  
(Deuteronomy 6:5)
- 🙏 HIS ARMS – that You, Lord, will be his strength.  
(Psalms 77:15)
- 🙏 HIS HANDS – to enjoy the work of his hands.  
(Ecclesiastes 3:13; Ecclesiastes 5:19)
- 🙏 HIS FEET – that he walks in Your truth.(Psalms 26:3)

The main area of responsibility for any wife is to support and be submissive to her husband. (Ephesians 5:22-24) However, if the Lord calls a man into the ministry, He calls the whole man, and that includes the wife and his family... The pastor and his wife are a team who are yoked together to do God’s work... A pastor’s wife has a very special role in church and in the life of the pastor. She will often keep her husband’s long hours, shoulder his pressures, and feel his disappointments. She will often analyze sermons, smile in the face of criticism and negative comments about her husband and children... A pastor’s wife provides a sounding board for her husband to vent, brainstorm, and question his progress or goals, yet encouraging and steadfast to support the vision that God has given them. She is often a nurse, healing emotional wounds; a counselor that helps her husband to work out

difficulties. She's a lover and protector to shield him from harm and to provide the loving care that is so vitally needed... It is wise to be a part of your husband's ministry, attending and supporting as many functions or activities as possible... have fun and enjoy one another to the fullest. Make time for small outings together and alone. Make time for one another. Some things to remember:

- Be patient.
- Be real. People need to see that you are also human and real. People are looking for realness, both spiritually as well as personally.
- Be careful who you confide in.
- Don't gossip or share anything negative about a church member. You are a witness as well as an example for others to follow. We should be encouraging everyone to think on those things that are good.
- Find a spiritual mentor. It is good to have someone that can bring encouragement in your life as well as Godly wisdom. God has placed people on this earth that can help; if you will allow them to do so.
- Never talk negative about your spouse. Team together to produce unity at every level.
- Positive statements along with positive non-verbal communication can guide others along a positive path. Does a soft word turneth away wrath Proverbs 15:7? There are times when we need to overlook or avoid battle for the sake of winning the war.
- Pray with your husband every day. It is imperative that every pastor's wife pray for the hedge of protection to be around her husband and family every day. Pray that God will place guardian angels around about, protecting and guarding against all evil or hindrances that may cause harm or problems for you. Pray for wisdom, protecting all your possessions, and sending provisions from the north, south, east and west, blessing your

health and work places, and to be the person God wants you to be that day! Some things are only accomplished through prayer and fasting!<sup>15</sup>

A pastor's wife can consider her calling to be very similar to every other's wife's calling. She is designed to be a helper. Every wife should appreciate and maintain a high view of her husband's calling and gifts... the minister's wife should recognize that she is God's primary means to help her husband re-charge his batteries.

Like any husband, he needs rest, he needs food, and he needs the restorative pleasures of the marriage bed. All these things she should "gift him" as a center piece of her own ministry to him. She should view these duties by faith, trusting that God will use them all to bless and strengthen her husband.

A good marriage is a comfort and a blessing. A minister with a healthy, happy marriage will be far more effective in his calling than if his marriage is anemic or strained. So consider the state of your marriage. Even a good marriage can be better, so ask God to enrich and deepen your attachment to one another.

One of the first principles of marriage is to stay in fellowship with one another. That requires diligence and humility... you mess up, you seek forgiveness. The first duty is to stay in close fellowship. That keeps you from drifting apart and is a tremendous protection for your marriage. Though we all have times when we need to pour out our troubles to our husbands, we ought to try to be the kind of wives who don't need that kind of attention every single day. We want to be applying what we are learning and asking God to enable us to grow in grace so we are a positive help and not a drain on our husbands.

He should have confidence that he is coming home to a woman that has her tasks in hand...wives should be preparing for their husbands, making their homes places where the family can thrive in an atmosphere of love, affection and respect. We wives have far more power than we realize to affect the atmosphere in our homes. We can make it one of peace and happiness. This is our privilege and our joy.

A minister's wife has to be the kind of woman who believes the Bible is true and submits to it in every area of her life. No exceptions. This means she is loyal to God first, and then to her husband and family, church and congregation. A loyal wife is a security for her husband. "The heart of her husband safely trusts her, so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life". (Proverbs 31:11-12)

Loyalty to your husband means you are a die-hard, one-man woman. It means you are faithful, consistent, and true.<sup>16</sup>

You are your husband's biggest fan. I remember thinking that I was not good enough to be a wife of a minister. I began to think of all the ministers' wives that I have known since childhood, and in my mind I did not measure up at all. Slowly, the Lord showed me that I didn't have to "do" anything... Praying and reading your Bible is a plus, but the main thing that I discovered was that I just needed to be my husband's biggest supporter. He will face so many trials and you will need to be there for him. Through prayers, and showing him your love, he will be able to get through those challenges. He will also face many victories and you will need to be there to share those praises with him too. Tell him and show him often that you are his biggest fan.

Your husband's job did not come with a time clock. It will feel like everyone wants your husband's time and it will feel like you are always left waiting your turn. It will get better. It may feel like God is asking too much when your husband isn't home at night for four days in a row, due to meetings or hospital calls. If you understand that his ministry is his AND yours, then it will not feel so lonely.

Mum's the word. There will be times when your husband will be involved in meetings or counseling where he will not be able to share with you what was said. There will be phone calls late at night and he won't be able to share with you who or what was said. Just like a doctor, a psychiatrist, or a lawyer, there are some things preachers can't talk about due to confidentiality.

When people put their trust in him, that what they share will be kept confidential, then that is exactly what he has to do. The best thing you can do is to respect their wishes and to respect his ministry. There may come a time when he may need your counsel so your husband may share something with you that was told to him in confidence, therefore, you too must keep it confidential. One of the things that will kill your husband's ministry is to have a wife with loose lips. I can't say this enough – respect your husband's ministry when he says, “you must keep this between you and I”.

Being the wife of a preacher does not make you exempt from trials. There may be financial problems. Trials can also come in the area of making friends. Your trials may come from being separated from family.

You will need to be flexible. As a young minister's wife, I couldn't imagine ever serving peanut butter and jelly to our guests or even letting people see our dirty house, but

after hearing the lessons of a seasoned minister's wife, I came to realize flexibility was the biggest point. I don't always have a firm grasp on this trait, and I'm always asking for His grace, but don't we want people to feel "at home" in our home?

The most important thing is that I decided wherever the Lord leads my husband, I will go with him. I am my husband's help mate and where the Lord leads him, I too will go.<sup>17</sup>

The pastor's wife has no say so...yet she has a lot to do with whether her husband...succeeds. She is expected to dress modestly, and attractively, well enough but not overly ornate. She is expected to be the perfect mother, her husband's biggest supporter and prayer warrior, and to attend all the church functions faithfully and bring a casserole. Since her husband is subject to being called away from home at all hours, she is expected to understand this and to have worked it out with the Lord.

It's my observation that most wives of ministers feel inadequate. They want to do the right thing, to manage their households well and support their husbands, keep a clean house, sometimes accompany him on his ministries, and such, but there are only so many hours in a day and so much strength in a young woman. She feels guilty for being tired, and worries that she is inadequate. The Apostle Paul may have had pastors' wives in mind when he said, "not that we are adequate to think anything of ourselves, but our adequacy is of God" (2 Corinthians 3:5). We are inadequate. None of us is worthy or capable of this incredible calling from God. We must abide in Him or nothing about our lives will go right. Find other wives of ministers and encourage them. The young ones in particular have a hard time of it, with the children, the

young husbands, the demanding congregation and sometimes, Lord help us, even an outside job.<sup>18</sup>

**Advice for the new pastor's wife:**

- Know that God called you to this place. Trust that He has a purpose for you.
- Invest in others. Say yes when invited places and do your own inviting.
- Guard your heart and take time building relationships that will last.
- Remember that you answer to God. Do your best to model Christ-likeness and ask for forgiveness from Him and others when you fail.

~ Sandra Peoples

**10 things to say to your husband when marriage is hard:**<sup>19</sup>

1. What do you need from me right now?
2. How can I help you take some of the burden off today?
3. I'm sorry.
4. Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I'm proud of you because \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Our kids are lucky to have a dad like you.
7. Please forgive me.
8. I love you because \_\_\_\_\_.
9. I'm going to make more of an effort to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Thank you for being someone I can respect.

### **“Ministry Is...”<sup>20</sup>**

- \* Listening when you’d rather fix the problem.
- \* Searching for the joy, when it’s easier to say, “it’s not fair”.
- \* Helping, when you feel like you are the one that needs the help.
- \* Telling God, “use me”, when you’d rather ask to be rescued
- \* Encouraging, even when you don’t understand God’s reasoning.
- \* Hugging when it feels awkward.
- \* Saying, “let’s pray right now” instead of “I’ll pray for you”.
- \* Serving, when you doubt you have anything left to give.
- \* Comforting, by being the flicker of light in others’ dark caverns.

### **“Thoughts on Marriage...”<sup>21</sup>**

The man’s responsibility toward the wife throughout his ministry is just as important as his church responsibilities. Due to the covenant made at the marriage of a couple, the man must never neglect the wife nor the family. Read I Corinthians chapter 7, as it points to the husband loving and caring for his wife just as Christ cares for the church. Paul does not suggest that the husband neglect his wife nor work in the ministry as though he had no wife. He was concerned that in his day, if the husband/priesthood member were to be martyred, it would leave a wife in a very poor spot without support.

## Remnant Testimonies

I was baptized in the RLDS Church at age 8. My husband, Elder Barton Buttery, was a convert after several years of marriage and the birth of several sons. There were times that it took us both as a unit to hold things together and be supportive of each other.

Stand by your husband. Support him, pray for him, and pray and study together. Learn to give of your time so he has the time to study and work on sermons. Give of yourself. Go with him when he goes to other congregations to preach. Most of all, pray for strength that the two of you will grow closer together with God being the head of your household.

*~Charlotte Jamison, Blackgum Branch*



Priesthood wives:

- Love (Christ's charity) your husband and give loving support.
- Daily pray for him.
- Critique his ministry
  - what needs improvement.
  - what is good.
- Not only support him, but build him up – help God in this.
- As he ministers to build up the kingdom, acknowledge him in his part (role) in the priesthood.
- Share (communicate) with him in your family role. Be quick to share concerns.
- Make sure your time together is always of highest quality. Marriage is so important.

- Tell each other – “In His Name” – I love you.
- You are ministers to one another. (It’s a two-way street.)
- One of your most special gifts from the Almighty is your spouse – make sure he sees God through you.

*~Elder Denny Post, Rogers Branch*



The Scriptures say that the priesthood is forever and I believe that. I always put Leland’s priesthood before other personal activities. Once we were dressed to go out to eat at a nice restaurant for our anniversary. The phone rang. From Leland’s end of the conversation, I knew he was going to be going on a priesthood call for an administration. I didn’t say anything, but went and changed clothes. I wasn’t upset or mad, we could go out anytime. It was more important for him to do what he was called to do. My suggestion would be to not get upset when your husband has to do what the Lord called him to do.

If your husband is on the schedule to be up front, always have him wear a clean, pressed, white dress shirt, a nice dress suit (no bright colors), dark socks and shoes. This is so the men up front look uniform and no one stands out or draws attention to themselves. The congregation will focus on the sermon or service instead of on the individual men.

*~Darlene Collins, First Congregation*



My father-in-law enjoyed serving communion. As part of that service, he liked to watch each member he served take and consume the sacrament. He said it was difficult to do sometimes. Standing over ladies with low-cut necklines or short skirts, he would have to look away instead of watching the member partake of the sacraments.

My suggestion would be to think about how to dress to attend church. We all want to look nice without looking frumpy. Our clothes do not need to be name brand or expensive, but we need to be mindful of how our clothes look and fit as we are standing and sitting. I personally don't want to offend or embarrass any member of the church. I have become more aware of the lengths of my skirts and the shapes of the necklines of my shirts. If the skirts are too short, or the necklines are too low or if a top stays open; I've chosen not to wear them to church. We ladies are role models for the younger girls at church. Role models not only in speech, behavior, but also in how to dress.

~ Angela Collins, *Blackgum Branch*



Priesthood ministry is a specialized service to help meet the needs of individuals and/or family. To maintain respect and trust with the saints, confidentiality is a must.

Please don't question your husband about his visits with the families or individuals he may deal with. A minister works years for trust with the saints to be earned and it can be lost in one single moment or act of betrayal of confidentiality.

Your husband should always try to make his visits with an additional priesthood member; as the scriptures say, “go two by two”. On those occasions that another priesthood member is not available, you should always be willing to be his partner to go with him, to avoid suspicion of church members of impropriety. Here again, confidentiality is of the utmost importance.

Do not share any family secrets that may come out in a visit, as this also can ruin your husband’s respect with the saints.

Always pray for wisdom for your priesthood husband, not only for his home ministry, but also for his preparation for sermons and duties he may have in a service. Whether he is presiding or offering a specific duty, such as invocation, benediction or prayer over offering, he always needs your prayers.

Work towards a Zion home. Keeping your home clean and establishing a worship center for prayer and devotions help keep the family in remembrance of praise, adoration and intercessory prayer for those that are sick, or having difficulties in life. Also, it is a time for family to come together and praise God for His daily blessings.

Be patient and supportive of his ministry. Sometimes it may seem you are alone a lot. Make this a time of calling and checking on shut-ins or meeting with the ladies of your branch for study and planning for women’s activities or maybe cleaning the home of a disabled saint or widow.

These things mentioned may seem demanding of your time, but if we truly seek for the Zion gathering of like minds, dwelling in righteousness, and having no poor

among us, the blessings of the Holy Spirit will be greater than any sacrifice.

Your husband will need to be kindly reminded from time to time of his own family's needs, as he might assume all is well in his own house.

Volunteer as time permits, to send a treat or a meal for the family he may be visiting.

The wife is very much the strength behind a successful priesthood member. Your love and devotion is very much needed for lifting him up when he feels like a failure. Yes, you wives need a reciprocal amount of that same love and devotion.

Love one another and allow each other to serve the Lord and His people as opportunity presents itself.

There are not enough words to express all the different types of needs and various situations that can come, when serving the Lord. God will take care of you! Ask God what to do, then hang on and trust Him.

*~Elbert Rogers, Sperry Branch*



My husband is a priesthood member and has given many inspiring sermons. Occasionally, he will open with the following story:

There once was a young man who had just finished seminary school. He graduated top of his class in his knowledge of the Scriptures. Being fresh out of training, he was assigned his own congregation. As educated as he

was with his knowledge of the Bible, he had a difficult time grabbing the attention of the congregation. He talked to an older pastor friend of his and said, “I just can’t get my people to listen to my sermons. They spend a lot of time chattering and nodding off, so I know they’re bored.” So the older pastor said he would come over to the young man’s church and listen to his message to see if he could give him some pointers. After the service, the older pastor told the younger pastor, “You need an attention grabber when you begin. Then the people will stick with you throughout the sermon and will listen to what you have to say. Come over to my church and see what I mean.” So, the young man went to the other pastor’s branch. To begin the sermon that morning, the older pastor began by saying, “Some of the best years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman. That woman was not my wife.” The young man observed the congregation when he gave his confession. Everyone was leaning forward and listening intently for what would be said next. The pastor’s wife was staring at him with a concerned look. The older pastor repeated his statement. “Some of the best years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman. That woman was my mother.” Everyone in the room breathed a sigh of relief and then the pastor went on to deliver his sermon. The people were hanging onto his every word that morning. The young man was excited when he left and couldn’t wait for next Sunday morning. The following Sunday, the young pastor looked out across his congregation and confessed, “Some of the best years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman. That woman was not my wife.” All chatter stopped and you could hear a pin drop. His young wife was sitting on the front row, with tears starting in her eyes. The young pastor drew a blank – he couldn’t remember the punch line, so he repeated the phrase a little louder. “Some of the best years of my life were spent in

the arms of another woman.” He still couldn’t remember what came next. By now, his wife’s tears were running down her face. In a panic, the young pastor decides he needs more gusto - then maybe he will remember. So, with all the enthusiasm he could muster, he pounded the pulpit with both hands and repeated the phrase. “SOME OF THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE WERE SPENT IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER WOMEN - and for the life of me, I can’t remember her name.”

Every priesthood member has times when they feel discouraged, embarrassed, self-conscious, frustrated or a failure. Part of your job as the wife of a priesthood member is to encourage and lift up your husband. Yes, he works for God, but remember, he is human too. The harder he works for the Lord, the harder satan\* works to destroy him. Your husband needs your support. Sometimes this takes the form of patience. Even when you don’t understand him, trust and accept that he is doing the very best he can for God and the Church. Sometimes he needs your strength. Please pray for him constantly. Those prayers can help strengthen you too!

When my young husband began his work, he had no reference books to help him, so I began clipping stories, “attention grabbers”, favorite scriptures, etc. to give him some ideas for his sermons. He would practice his sermons in front of me to hear the words out loud and for constructive criticism. He no longer needs me to do these things for him, and that is ok. It has been exciting to watch him grow spiritually. I must warn you – please don’t get angry if his ministry comes before your own plans or lasts much longer than you had anticipated. The first time my husband came home at 2:00 in the morning, I was prepared to let him know that I didn’t appreciate being awake half of the night when I had to work the next

day. I was angry because I was worried something had happened to him. (This was before the days of cell phones.) Then I happened to notice the glow on his face. He had been a part of something special and I almost took that from him. What a tragedy that would have been. Because I bit my tongue so many times, I have learned acceptance, which is stronger than anger.

I sometimes need to accompany him on priesthood visits if there are no other priesthood members available. He has difficulty hearing some people and I can be his ears for him. Most of the time when he makes a home or hospital visit, I know the people too. I try to be seen, but silent. Sometimes I say a prayer before the administration healing. It is the same as I say for that person in my personal prayers or on Wednesday night. My husband makes it very clear to everyone present that I am not a priesthood member, but simply a loving friend. Sometimes if there are noisy children in the home, I will take them to a quiet spot and entertain them while discussions or administrations are going on.

Find different ways to help your husband in his priesthood ministry. God will bless you both!

\*(I do not give respect to satan, so I never capitalize his name.)

*~Sister Coral Rogers, Sperry Branch*



The Lord spoke through my patriarchal blessing saying, “Your wife was sent to you, so you could preach the Gospel.” Years later, it was easy to see His blessings are not just so you can have a suit and a car with enough

money to be able to afford to drive when you offer ministry.

The Lord has supplied my needs for my priesthood ministry many times through the help of my wife. You can help your husband in ways you can't even imagine now. Just let the Lord guide you.

The wife can become a member of part of a tag team. Remember “They twain shall be one flesh” in the Bible? That is so true in this partnership. You thought that saying was just for weddings, didn't you? His preaching is also your preaching. It is your job to make your husband the best preacher he can be. You are to be his biggest critic – yet his biggest fan. Be the best encourager you can be.

Your job is to remind him of important things such: stand up straight (don't sniff into the microphone, which picks up every little sound), try not to mumble, and don't use crutch words such as “and uh” or whatever else because this is a crutch to fill in blank air – just simply stop for a moment until you're ready to move on to the next thought. For instance, one time as I was speaking, my wife, sitting in the congregation, began to write, determinedly trying not to let anyone notice her. Suddenly she held up a full page with 2 words written in large bold letters that stated, “And uh”. She wrote those 2 words 3 times. (Believe me, I have never said “and uh” from the pulpit again!) She is my “help meet” as the Scriptures say.

My advice: let his preaching become an adventure!

*~Apostle Roger Tracy, Sperry Branch*



***Suggested reading:***

- [www.biblicalmennonite.com](http://www.biblicalmennonite.com) (mentoring guide for ministry wives). Biblical Mennonite Alliance 2010
- Holmquist, Melissa “Call to Modesty Among Christian Women”. Melissa Holmquist blog
- Howard, Kristy, March 24, 2019 “How Should a Pastor’s Wife Dress? [Part 1: The Case of Modesty]” Kristy’s Cottage blog
- Ormartin, Stormie “The Power of a Praying Wife”
- Weaver, Joanna “Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World”
- Elect Lady?
- Inspired Version of the Scriptures:
  - Proverbs 31 (quality of a good wife)
  - Hebrews 7 (of the Melchisedec and Aaronic Priesthood)
  - D&C 17 (duties of the offices and members of the Church of Christ)
  - D&C 104 (duties of the offices of the priesthood)
- Margaret Wilson Gibson "Emma Smith, the Elect Lady"

**Resources:**

1. The Merriam Webster Dictionary, 1974  
Springfield, Massachusetts
2. [www.YouBetterPreach.com](http://www.YouBetterPreach.com) “Some of the Qualities of the Godly Woman”
3. [www.livingfreeindeed.com](http://www.livingfreeindeed.com) “Five of God’s Desires for Women”
4. [www.danielletate.org](http://www.danielletate.org) “Traits of Godly Characters in Women”
5. Williams, Dr. Michael L., “What is the Role of a Wife? Bible definition of a wife.” Christian Crier, [www.patheos.com](http://www.patheos.com)

6. [www.kellyrbaker.com](http://www.kellyrbaker.com) “10 Descriptions of a Wife’s Role”
7. Schumaker, Lori “5 Things to Pray When You Want to be a Better Wife” Summer Sizzle Blog Hop Series
8. [www.JoleneEngle.com](http://www.JoleneEngle.com) “The Wise Wife”, “The Patient Wife”, “The Content Wife”, “The Confident Wife”
9. [www.snugglesandkisses.net](http://www.snugglesandkisses.net) “7 Daily Habits of Excellent Homemakers”
10. [www.club31woman.com](http://www.club31woman.com) “25 Tips I Want to Share with Younger Wives”
11. [www.joypursued.com](http://www.joypursued.com) or [www.sarahgeringer.com](http://www.sarahgeringer.com) “9 Biblical Tips for Marriage”
12. [www.unveiledwife.com](http://www.unveiledwife.com) “10 Things I Have Learned About Marriage”
13. [www.club31woman.com](http://www.club31woman.com) “20 Little Things to Make a Difference in Your Marriage”
14. [www.welcomeheart.com](http://www.welcomeheart.com) “Praying For Your Husband From Head to Toe”
15. [www.pastoralcareinc.com](http://www.pastoralcareinc.com) “Role of a Pastor’s Wife”
16. Wilson, Nancy, “True Companion: Thoughts on Being a Pastor’s Wife” 2013, Canon Press, Moscow, Idaho
17. Smith, Linda, “5 Things a Young Preacher’s Wife Needs to Know” [www.radicalchristianwoman.com](http://www.radicalchristianwoman.com)
18. McKeever, Joe “Pastor, Remember Your Wife is the MOST Vulnerable Person in Your Church” October 2, 2017 [www.CHURCHLEADERS.COM](http://www.CHURCHLEADERS.COM)
19. [www.FaithLpp.com](http://www.FaithLpp.com) “10 Things to Say to Your Husband When Marriage is Hard”
20. [www.restministries.com](http://www.restministries.com) “Ministry Is...”
21. First Presidency of the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints



