

Faithful in *All* Things

A guide to being a pastor's wife

Barbara Bean
with Howard Bean

Christian Light Publications
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Table of Contents

Faithful in Exemplary Living

- 1 Consistently Faithful 3
- 2 Living in a Fishbowl 7
- 3 Devotional Life 13
- 4 Church Attendance
and Participation 17
- 5 A Pure Life 21

Faithful in Overcoming Temptations

- 6 Self-Pity 27
- 7 Discouragement 31
- 8 Feeling Alone 35
- 9 Control 39
- 10 Pride 41
- 11 Envy 43

Faithful in a Servant Attitude

- 12 A Heart Devoted to God 47
- 13 The Biblical Mandate for Service.. 51
- 14 Jesus' Example of Service 53
- 15 Arenas of Service 55

Faithful in the Fruit of the Spirit

- 16 Love 61
- 17 Joy 67
- 18 Peace 69

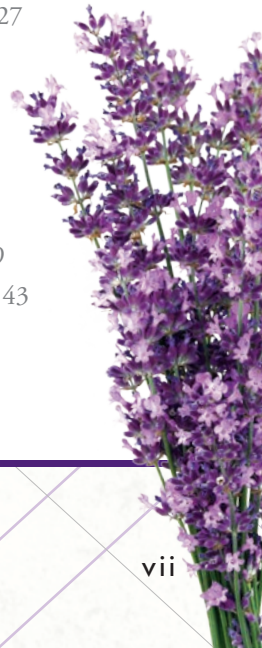
- 19 Long-suffering 71
- 20 Gentleness 75
- 21 Goodness 81
- 22 Faith 85
- 23 Meekness 87
- 24 Temperance 91

Faithful in Stewardship

- 25 Helps in Keeping Healthy 95
- 26 The Godly Woman's Appearance 101
- 27 The Need for Time Management 105
- 28 Practical Ways to Redeem
the Time 109
- 29 Stewardship of the Gospel 115
- 30 Living on a Limited Budget 119

Faithful in Marriage

- 31 Accepting the Call 125
- 32 Embracing the Call... 127
- 33 Encouraging Him
in His Pastoral
Work 135
- 34 Helping, Not
Hindering, Your
Husband 139
- 35 Meeting His Needs 143



Faithful in Child Training

- 36 Potential Difficulties in Child Training 153
- 37 Devoting Time to Your Children. 157
- 38 Daddy's Absence..... 161
- 39 Prepare Your Arrows..... 165

Faithful in Speech

- 40 The Plague of Gossip..... 169
- 41 Confidentiality..... 173
- 42 Electronic Communication..... 177
- 43 Responding to Unfair Criticism. 181

Faithful in Relating to Other Women

- 44 Ideas for Building Relationships 187
- 45 Relating to Wives of the Ordained..... 191
- 46 Understanding and Helping Youth Girls..... 193
- 47 Relating to Single Women 203
- 48 Relating to First-Generation Christians..... 209

Faithful in Meeting Special Needs

- 49 Helping Those Who Respond at Revival Meetings 223
- 50 Relating to the Bereaved..... 229
- 51 Helping Victims of Sexual Abuse . 237

Faithful in Hospitality

- 52 The Many Forms of Hospitality.. 243
- 53 Hints for Hospitality..... 247
- 54 If You Host the Visiting Speaker.. 253
- 55 Hospitality in Reverse 255

Faithful in a Mission Setting

- 56 Challenges of Family Living 261
- 57 Mission Hospitality 267
- 58 Other Challenges Facing a Missionary's Wife 275

Blessings of a Pastor's Wife

- 59 Present Blessings and Future Rewards 285
- Appendix: Ideas for Talks for Ladies' Groups..... 291

Faithful in
Exemplary
Living



Consistently Faithful

Hudson Taylor said, “A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in a little thing is a great thing.” The life of a pastor’s wife consists of many little things. She does not preach, baptize, hold revival meetings, give spiritual oversight, or excommunicate. But she is called to be faithful in many less prominent responsibilities.

Pastors’ wives are called to be “grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things” (1 Timothy 3:11). As a pastor’s wife is faithful in all aspects of life, she becomes an outstanding example.

Faithful signifies being “dependable, trustworthy, consistent, reliable.” A few questions from daily living may help us understand the meaning and challenge of faithfulness.

- ≈ If cold water greets you for your morning shower a couple days each week, do you consider your water heater to be faithful?
- ≈ If you miss a few monthly mortgage payments, does your financial institution say, “Ten out of twelve payments is pretty good”?

- ≈ If your vehicle starts most winter mornings, do you consider it to be dependable?
- ≈ If your freezer works three weeks out of four, is it dependable?
- ≈ If a railroad warning signal works ninety-five percent of the time, would you consider it trustworthy?

Aim to be faithful in all areas of life. Ask God for grace and strength to be faithful in all things. Thomas Aquinas prayed:

“Bestow on me also, O Lord my God,
 Understanding to know You,
 Diligence to seek You,
 Wisdom to find You,
 And a faithfulness
 That may finally embrace You,
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The wise man who wrote Proverbs 31:10-31 describes a faithful, virtuous wife and mother. This is our attempt to apply the passage to a pastor's wife in the twenty-first century.

A Virtuous Minister's Wife

(Proverbs 31:10-31)

Who can find a virtuous minister's wife? for her price is far above diamonds, yachts, and computers.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her to conduct her life in an exemplary manner, to discipline her children when needed, and to be discreet and pure so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good by encouraging and supporting his ministry and the work of the congregation, and will not do him evil all the days of her life.

She seeketh cotton and polyester and worketh willingly with her hands, making decent and exemplary clothes for herself and her children and sewing for the needy.

She is like the cargo planes and transport trucks, speedily adding wieners to the ham when unexpected company arrives.

She riseth also while it is yet night and prepares a meal for potential Sunday guests. She keepeth extra groceries, towels, and sheets on hand to be ready for unexpected company.

With the fruits of her hands, she planteth a garden.

She doeth her work energetically; she keepeth herself fit both physically and spiritually.

She doeth her best in whatever she attempts. Her welcome mat is out day or night.

She knoweth how to use a needle and thread, and her sewing machine hums.

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor—baking cookies for a family with illness, packing used clothes for relief, sharing the Gospel with spiritual seekers, knotting comforters at sewing circle, writing a letter to a missionary friend, giving an encouraging phone call to a young mother; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy, sharing her garden produce with those who have no garden, lending encouragement to a child with homework, listening to a discouraged homemaker, using garden produce profits to assist mission work in Guatemala, kissing toddlers’ “ouchies,” visiting a shut-in.

She is not concerned with cold weather, for she has provided her family with durable, appropriate clothing.

She is clothed with modest, attractive garments; for her house, she makes quilts and cushions.

Her husband is known in the congregation when he sitteth among the elders of his church family.

She is economical, “making do” and considering the value of thrift stores.

She has strength of character and is dignified, avoiding gossip, crude remarks, resentment, flirting, ostentation, and irreverence. She has a positive attitude toward the future and is ready to meet the Lord.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom—teaching Sunday school, comforting her toddlers, instructing her children, sympathizing with her adolescents, guiding her teens, giving requested advice to her married children, and responding to her husband’s need for insight and a feminine perspective; and in her tongue is the law of kindness with words such as, “I understand,” “Let me help you,” and “I am praying for you.”

She is alert to the needs in her family and doth not use her time foolishly.

Her children and her husband rise up and bless her with commendation for wonderful surprises, a patient disposition, tasty casseroles, a clean kitchen, loving discipline of children, a sense of humor, compassionate nursing care, and being a trusty confidante.

Many people have done great things, but the minister’s wife who works for the Lord excels far above the wives of political or business leaders.

Charm is deceptive and beauty is vain and short-lived, but a pastor’s wife who fears the Lord deserves appreciation and praise. Give her the reward and recognition she deserves, and let her own works praise her in the congregation and bring her eternal reward within the pearly gates.