

# Parenting *in the* Ministry

# Ministry Families are Unique – but Not as Unique as You Think

- All things you teach and preach for other families to do – you should do them as well.
- Recognize many professions have special challenges to family life – you are not the only one who has to handle vocational challenges to your family.

# Ministry Family Issues that Require Special Focus

- Encourage your children to be themselves.
  - Protect them from the expectations of others.
  - Help your children learn who they are and maximize the life God intends for them.
  - Avoid projecting your expectations and desires on your children.

# Ministry Family Issues that Require Special Focus

- Allow your children to develop spiritually at their own pace
  - Set some minimum church attendance/ministry participation standards.
  - Allow your children to opt out of some optional church activities.
  - Allow your children to visit or join other churches.
  - Encourage open discussion and debate of spiritual issues.

# Ministry Family Issues that Require Special Focus

- Keep your ultimate goal in focus – spiritually growing, emotionally healthy, socially mature, independent adults
  - Resist evaluating your children's development prematurely.
  - Prepare for and be willing to handle criticism from people outside your family.
  - Encourage your children through their struggles – take the long view they lack the experience to understand.

# Ministry Family Issues that Require Special Focus

- Protect your children from the ugly side of ministry.
  - Be careful what you talk about, who you talk about, and the image you give your children of church people.
  - Don't let your younger children attend meetings where you know conflict is likely to happen.
  - Introduce the “ugly side” of ministry to teenagers as you help them develop a realistic maturity about church. Help them interpret what is happening in a biblical way.

# Ministry Family Issues that Require Special Focus

- Spend time with your children
  - Build your hobby/social/outreach life around your children's activities.
  - Schedule your children's activities on your "appointment calendar" and keep those commitments.
  - Use the flexibility of a ministry schedule to your advantage to be involved with your children.

# Ministry Family Issues that Require Special Focus

- Spend time with your children
  - Take your vacation days and find creative ways to build family memories.
  - Make family mealtimes a priority.
  - Separate your work space from your family space.



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