

## The Missionary And His Family

2 Corinthians 6:1-8

“We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.) 3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: 4 But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; 6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, 7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, 8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and *yet* true;”

*The King James Version, 1769.*

- I. The Missionary Family must know their role as a Family.
  - A. What is the role of the Family Biblically?
    1. Husband / Dad
      - a) Learner - (1Pet. 3:7) dwell with her according to knowledge
      - b) Leader
        - (1) As a Christian
        - (2) As a Commander - Gen. 18:19
        - (3) As a Communicator
      - c) Lover - Eph. 5:25, 28, 33
    2. Wife / Mother
      - a) Submissive - Eph. 5:22, 24; 1Pet. 3:1-6
      - b) Obedient - Titus 2:3-5
      - c) Completer - Gen. 2:18
      - d) Reverent - Eph. 5:33
    3. Children - Eph. 6:1-2
      - a) Obedient
      - b) Honoring
  - B. What is the role of the Family in Ministry?
    1. Basic Christian example - 2Cor. 6:1, 3, 4.
      - a) Adequate knowledge & understanding.
      - b) Church attendance.
      - c) Church involvement.
      - d) Church leadership.
      - e) Christian family example
        - (1) husband /wife
        - (2) parent / child
        - (3) sibling / sibling
    2. Children.

- a) Positives to take advantage of:
  - (1) They win their way into hearts of the people (Luke Mallory).
  - (2) They will open opportunities for the parents to witness.
  - (3) They make friends easily.
  - (4) They break the ice (and other things) in the new neighborhood.
  - (5) They do great P.R.
  - (6) They can model Christian home and childhood.
  - (7) Most M.K.'s turn out ok.
- b) Negatives to remember.
  - (1) Little children demand huge chunks of time — they will hinder Mom on evangelistic endeavors.
  - (2) Mom staying home all the time will hinder Dad's need to meet with women for ministry.
  - (3) Nationals may react to parental fears of children "getting dirty" or "diseased."
  - (4) People expect you to practice what you preach — discipline, especially in church.
  - (5) Home schooling will most likely be necessary — Dad will have to help!
- 3. Flexibility.
  - a) Your house may necessarily be the church for a while.
  - b) Your time may have to be shared on occasions.
  - c) Special days may have to be rescheduled.
- II. The Missionary Family must find an Attitude of Joy in Ministry.
  - A. Principles to finding Joy.
    - 1. It takes an "I CAN" attitude.
    - 2. It takes an "I CAN" attitude for all things.
      - a) Wanting or want-free
      - b) Abased or abounding
      - c) Full or hungry
      - d) Suffering need.
    - 3. It takes an "I CAN THROUGH CHRIST" attitude.
  - B. Principles to finding Joy as a family.
    - No joy in the family = no joy in the ministry.
    - Never let circumstances infect you and your family.
    - Learn contentment
    - Be content
    - Recognize godliness with contentment is great gain.
  - C. Principles to finding Joy on Deputation.
    - 1. When faced with poor accommodations (sleeping in the van) - be content.
    - 2. When faced with people who do not seem to care (Pastors) - be content.
    - 3. When faced with meals you don't care for (spaghetti again) - be content.
    - 4. When faced with long travel days (2 hours) - be content.
    - 5. When faced with discouragement (2 supporting churches drop you) - be content.

6. When faced with low offerings (a buck eighty-five) - be content.
7. In whatsoever state (Georgia, Alabama) - be content.
8. The idea is just be content.
9. Adult, spiritual contentment will set the standard of contentment for the rest of the family.
10. True contentment will be contagious.
11. Your attitude about contentment will affect our support. — Rom 8:26-32

D. Principles to finding Joy on the Field.

1. The pressure is not off for you to have a good attitude just because you are out of the line of sight of your supporters.
2. Don't let down your guard — intensify it.
3. Maintain your contentment — it takes constant work. (Don Mallory — mail problems)
4. Set the standard you want the family to follow and lead them.
5. Your attitude here can and will affect your ministry.
  - a) When faced with afflictions — be content.
  - b) When face with distresses — be content.
  - c) When face with stripes — be content.
  - d) When face with imprisonments — be content.
  - e) When face with tumults — be content.
  - f) When face with labours — be content.
  - g) When face with watchings — be content.
  - h) When face with fastings — be content.

III. The Missionary Family must learn of the stresses and how to cope.

A. The stresses of ministry.

1. Physical hardships.
  - a) New lifestyle
  - b) Lack of conveniences
  - c) No Wal-Marts
  - d) Weather conditions
  - e) New bugs and pests
2. Health hardships
  - a) Dietary changes
  - b) New bacterium, amoeba, etc.
  - c) Getting older & older
3. Mental hardships
  - a) Loneliness (happens to those who are just pastors, also).
  - b) Homesickness
  - c) Political difficulties
  - d) Lack of buckaroos
  - e) Academic differences
  - f) Monotony of the work — newness dies quickly.
  - g) Separation from family and friends — particularly grandchildren

- h) Children's normal, American development
  - i) Teens looking for a spouse
  - j) Witnessing suffering about which there is nothing you can do
  - k) Constant contact with depravity
  - l) Lack of recreational places or activities
  - m) Exile
4. Spiritual hardships
- a) Deaf ears of the most needy
  - b) Binding power of religion and tradition
  - c) Superstition
  - d) The world
  - e) The flesh
  - f) The Devil
- B. 2. The joys we CAN have in ministry.
1. Respond with purity
    - a) Testimony
    - b) Conduct
    - c) Relationships
    - d) Doctrine
    - e) Thinking
    - f) Cooperation
    - g) Relationship to God
  2. Respond with knowledge of
    - a) The workings of God
    - b) The will of God
    - c) The Word of God
  3. Respond with longsuffering
  4. Respond with kindness
  5. Respond in the Holy Spirit
    - a) Words
    - b) Work
    - c) Way
  6. Respond with love unfeigned
    - a) Sincere
    - b) Sacrificial
    - c) Standard
  7. Respond with the Word of Truth
  8. Respond with the power of God
  9. Respond with the armor of righteousness.