

The Expositors Seminary  
UNDERSTANDING YOUR HUSBAND IN HIS MINISTRY  
Seminary Wives' Fellowship  
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1A. UNDERSTANDING HIS CALLING AND COMPULSION

1B. His Calling

1C. Its motivation: 1 Timothy 3:1

2C: Its maturation:

1D. Characterized: He was "Born to Serve the Lord."

2D. Illustrated (He experiences a growing sense of hindsight):

1E. Cf. Jeremiah (1:5)

2E. Cf. Paul (Galatians 1:15-16)

3C. Its marvel: He will always be amazed at his calling (cf. 1 Timothy 1:12-14).

2B. His compulsion

1C. Its expression:

1D. Cf. Paul (1 Corinthians 9:16; ladies, compare the context on the "rights" of a minister of the Gospel in the light of Paul's affirmation: vv. 1-15, 17-18. [We will look at this text more closely later on]).

2D. Cf. Isaiah (6:8; note the context of seemingly negative circumstances, vv. 5-7, 9-13).

2C. Its extent:

1D. Your husband has no options (cf. Paul's "ought" in Ephesians 6:19-20).

2D. Your husband can't quit (cf. Jer. 20:9a with 20:9b, 5:14, 23:29, etc.).

SUMMARY: Cf. the Chief Shepherd: "'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work'" (John 4:34, NIV).

2A. UNDERSTANDING HIS COMMITMENT

1B. Introduction

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR HUSBAND IN HIS MINISTRY

1C. Your husband might seem like a man of paradoxes, since he will serve in the light of two realities.

2C. As he serves, his feet will have to be planted in the real world of time and in the real world of eternity.

3C. Herein, he will be able to progressively discover the "Glory of the Ministry" (both he and you need to read A.T. Robertson's devotional treatment of 2 Cor. 2:14-6:10, The Glory of the Ministry: Paul's Exultation in Preaching, before you leave seminary).

4C. It is important that you understand as deeply as possible his commitment which is reflected in the glory of his ministry.

2B. From four Vantage Points within 2 Cor. 2:14-6:10, begin to survey the glory [and the guts] of your husband's ministry. It will help you to gain insight into his commitment.

1C. Look **upward** and realize that his victory is with God alone (2:14-3:6).

1D. (2:14-16a) The absolute certainty of his victory demands his praise.

2D. (2:16b-3:6) The vital appropriation of his victory requires his dependence.

2C. Look **backward** and realize that his privilege is superior to that of Moses (3:7-4:6).

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1D. (3:7-11) The marvel of his superior privilege

2D. (3:12-4:6) The motivation of his superior privilege

1E. (3:12-18) His motivation is manifested in confidence (v.13, degenerating; v. 18, accelerating).

2E. (4:1-6) His motivation is manifested in persistence.

3C. Look **inward** and realize that his perspective must always be Biblical (4:7-5:10).

1D. (4:7-15) The outline of his Biblical perspective

2D. (4:16-5:10) The outcome of his Biblical perspective

1E. (4:16-5:8) His transcendent discernment

2E. (5:9-10) His transcendent desire

4C. Look **outward** and realize that his task is absolutely compelling (5:11-6:10).

1D. (5:11-21) His task is compelling due to his commissioning.

2D (6:1-10) His task is compelling due to his circumstances.

3B. Conclusion:

1C. Is his commitment already becoming transparent? If not, maybe you need to lovingly probe his being here to prepare for a holy task.

2C. Is your understanding of his commitment growing and your attitude improving? If not, maybe you need to talk openly of this with your husband before it's painfully too late.

3A. UNDERSTANDING HIS CONCERNS

1B. The number and complexity of your husband's concerns is an ever-present reality to him.

2B. He is a man confronted by intricate priorities (e.g., he loves his Lord, his family, his flock).

1C. The first priority is easily established for him by revelation (and for all Christians--the Lord: cf. Luke 14:25ff., etc.).

2C. The second priority (i.e. between family and flock), contrary to much popular opinion and rhetoric, is not always easily established.

1D. Your husband is Scripturally responsible for both:

1E. Family (cf. Ephesians 5:25ff.; 1 Tim. 3:5; etc.)

2E. Flock (cf. Acts: 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3, etc.)

2D. He must be flexible and must responsibly direct the exercise of his love and energies to one or the other at given times and under various circumstances.

3D. Since the Apostle Paul (in this crucial area) had it easier (cf. 1 Cor. 7:8) than Peter (cf. 1 Cor. 9:5) and your husband (cf. 1 Tim. 3:2, 4-5)!, constantly try to understand the pressure of these concerns. Do what you can so as not to increase them upon him.

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3B. In addition to all of this, his various responsibilities must be consistently carried out with proper motives.

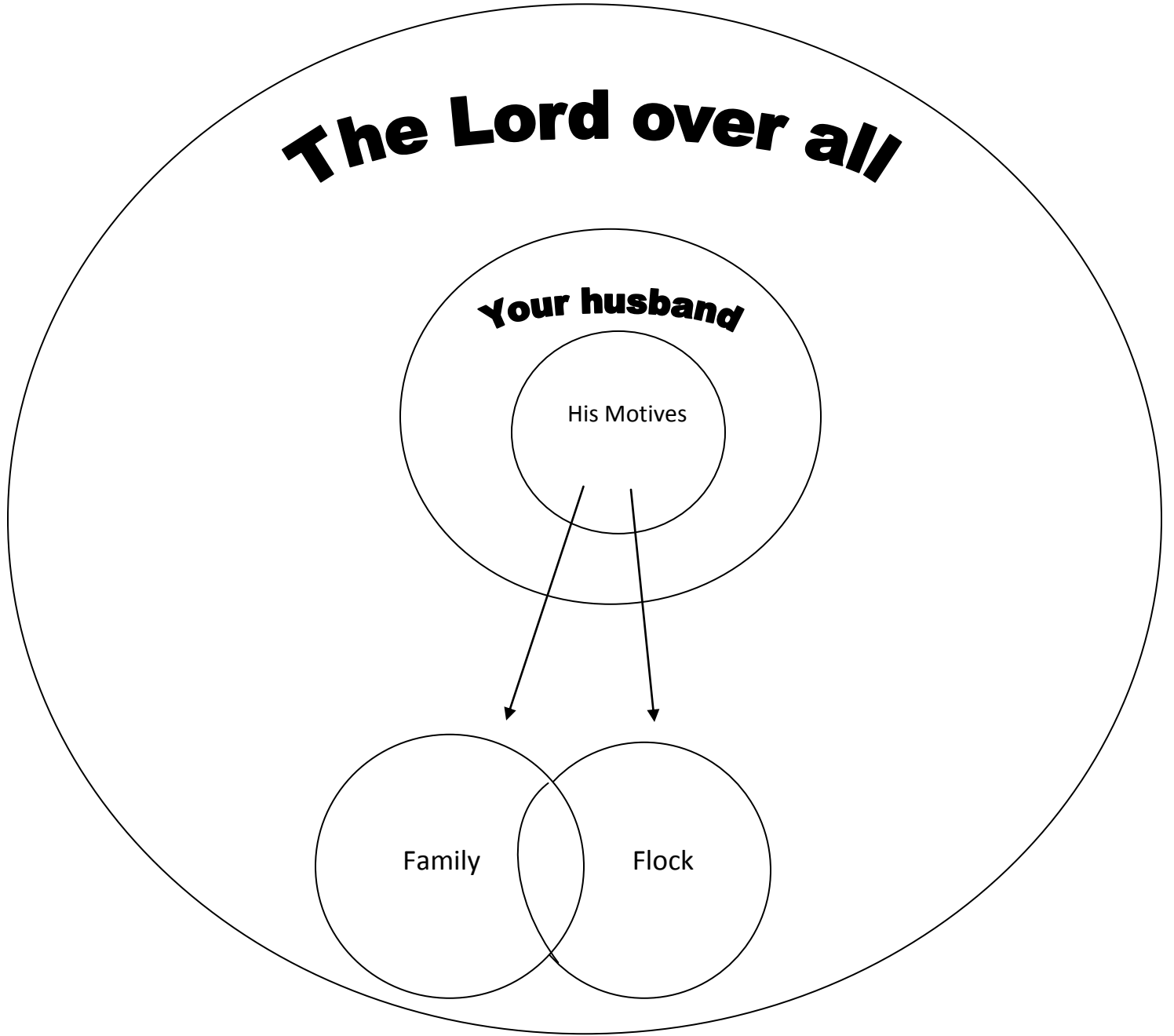
1C. When your husband directs his ministry one way or another, his conscience must pass the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit.

1D. 1 Peter 5:1-3

2D. 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

3D. All of your husband's efforts must pass through his total theological filter as the Holy Spirit probes his motives.

2C. Summary: Your husband must answer for not only multiple ministries but also pure motives. Your understanding of his complex concerns is absolutely essential.





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4A. UNDERSTANDING YOUR COOPERATION

1B. You can greatly help your husband by being an exemplary Christian lady.

1C. Ephesians 5:22-25

2C. Titus 2:3-5

3C. 1 Peter 3:1-6

2B. You can greatly help your husband by being an exemplary counterpart to his ministry (cf. Genesis 2:18)-- however, not a pastoress!

1C. Your task: Help him so that he might continually be in conformity with God's requirements for spiritual leadership.

2C. Your checklists: Which of your husband's requirements can you help him to realize?

1D. From 1 Timothy 3:2-7

2D. From Titus 1:7-9