

# ***Responses to Questions during Pastors' Wives Affinity Group - LT 2018***

## **1. What has surprised you most about being a pastor's wife?**

- Being thought of as a "pastor's wife," and not an individual
- The sting when my husband is criticized
- The pain of leaving or adjusting to new ministry
- Figuring out my role
- Anger when people hear and listen to false things about my husband
- The higher expectations on a senior pastor vs. an assistant
- That ONE person who defines you to others
- Delight of being accepted
- Expectations that others have on you (to teach children, counseling, etc.)
- Guarded relationships within the church; having to set boundaries
- Congregation coming to me with problems or desiring counsel
- Grief that comes when "sheep bite" or sin against us
- Being unable to share; isolation; being guarded
- Marriage difficulties within the church; remembering that only God can fix them
- Carrying burdens of others
- How people come and go; the low view of church that some have
- Lines being blurred because of dynamics of ministry/family life
- Feeling alone
- Husband often not having extra emotional capacity for our marriage
- Not connecting with other pastors' wives
- People who view you and your family as a commodity
- Lack of respect people can have for pastors
- People who become involved in your personal decisions

**2. Do you struggle with the “one-flesh” dynamic with your husband in ministry? If so, how have you experienced this? What are ways you and your husband have found to help foster this relationship in the midst of joint ministry?**

- Assuring your husband that you’ll always be there for him
- Helps when my husband reminds me that I can simply be me
- Breaking from unhealthy over-involvement in the church
- Having a full-time job outside the church creates a natural boundary
- Incorporate and keep a date night with your husband
- Working to share his burdens with him
- Struggle of having to work because church doesn’t care for our family well
- Spend time together outside of church activities
- Have prayer partners outside the congregation
- Struggle when I feel I need to be his “sounding board” – don’t need to know everything
- Sharing husband with the church; marriage can get squeezed out
- One-flesh can be fostered when we both feel called to ministry
- Set the ground rules of involvement in the church
- Supporting my husband doesn’t mean giving him a lot of ministry advice
- Sometimes joint ministry is the wife staying at home to free him to serve
- Barriers can be created between my husband and me when he feels he needs to protect me from ugliness of the church; or when I try to “protect” him from burdens at home
- One-flesh dynamic works well when husband shares his burdens of the church, but not details