

AN ELDER’S WIFE

Author Unknown

Vital to the smooth operation of any local establishment of the Lord’s church is a devoted person who has no title, holds no office, and has no authority save that of an ordinary Christian. Yet this person holds the power to disrupt or to expedite the most carefully laid plans and the most important works of the church. This quiet but influential person is an elder’s wife.

Elder’s wives come in a variety of shapes, sizes, colors and textures. She can usually be found long after services are over, sitting in a parked car by herself — waiting — or in an empty unheated auditorium after the crowd has gone — waiting. She gets a lot of Bible reading done this way, and she knows where all the songs are in the hymnbook.

She knows the loneliness of long evenings at home alone while her husband is out trying to correct other people’s troubles. She is alone because her children are usually old enough to be occupied with their own pursuits, if they have not left home altogether. So she occupies her time with busy work — and waits.

An elder’s wife must be as staunch as a rock, as busy as a beaver, as quiet as a mouse, as biblically informed as a preacher, as flexible as a rubber band, and as patient as a mother of triplets.

She must know how to change her plans without notice, how to keep a meal hot and tasty for two hours after it was ready to serve, how to hold her temper — and her tongue — when people criticize her husband, and, most of all, how to use time profitably while she waits for her husband to get out of a prolonged conference.

Hers is the frustration of knowing little and being able to tell even less, when people expect her to know all and tell it. She knows the heartache of watching her man wrestling with a problem not of his own making and which he cannot discuss — even with her. Hers is the responsibility of setting an example of faithful Christian wifeliness, not because anyone wants or intends to follow it, but simply because her husband is an elder. She has the burden of knowing that, of all the positions and offices in the Lord’s church, her husband occupies one of the two or three whose qualifications depend on the character and caliber of his wife as well as of himself.

An elder’s wife likes a peaceful church, worship services, Bible classes, potlucks, children, younger women, going visiting with her husband, opportunities to serve, company, a night when her husband has nowhere to go, getting to go home when church is over, short business meetings, people who don’t cause any trouble.

An elder’s wife worries about what people think of her husband, what people think about her, what people think about her husband because of her, whether her children are faithful as she taught them to be, church members who aren’t faithful, whether the roast in the oven at home is going to burn before her husband gets out of that unscheduled meeting which was called for “not more than five minutes” a half-hour ago.

Her life is hard, but she wouldn’t have it any other way. She loves the Lord with all her heart and feels the warm flow of satisfaction that comes of knowing that she dedicated not only herself, but even her home, her husband and her family to the service of God and the betterment of his kingdom. She knows that she has a reward in heaven, and she is willing to do more of that which she has already learned to do so well — wait!

And even if there were no heavenly crown to look forward to, all the trials of body and spirit become trivial by comparison when a man of God, exhausted from long hours of tending the Master's flock, comes home late at night, takes her in his arms, and says, "I just couldn't make it without you!"

Editor's Note: The author of the above article, "An Elder's Wife" is unknown to me, but I would like to dedicate it to the wives of our elders with love and appreciation.

HAPPY AND THANKFUL

John Edwards

With Thanksgiving Day this Thursday, it will be said over and over again, "HAPPY THANKSGIVING!" Thus, it is a good time to remind us to be happy and thankful!

BE HAPPY. I'm reminded of the song that says, "If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it." Does your face show you're happy? A little girl asked her mother, "Momma, are you

happy?" Her mother answered, "Why yes, I'm happy." To which her girl responded, "Then, why don't you tell your face about it!" The Bible says, "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance..." (Prov. 15:13). The Lord wants us to "be joyful" (Eccl. 7:14) and "Live joyfully..." (Eccl. 9:9). Christ said in John 13:17, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." The people of God ought to be the happiest people in the world! "Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy" (1 Pet. 2:10).

BE THANKFUL. Two words that should be in the vocabulary of every Christian: "THANK YOU!" We are taught, "...be ye thankful" (Col. 3:15). When Jesus healed ten lepers, do you remember how many returned to give thanks? Jesus said, "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger" (Lk. 17:17-18). Let's not be like the majority who did not return thanks, but practice "Giving thanks always for all

things..." (Eph. 5:20). As children of God, we have much to be thankful for! Make a list of things you're thankful for:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Now think of three people you need to say "THANK YOU" to and do it now:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Let's be a HAPPY and THANKFUL people every day all throughout the year!

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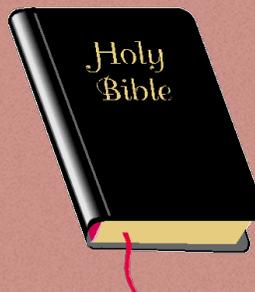
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