



Veronica Reece

Empowering the

Pastor's Wife

Finding our Place

Your
most important
relationships
are with
your family

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mothers womb. I will praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are you works, and that my soul knows very well.

Psalm 139:13-14

I love this passage of scripture. He formed you in your mother's womb! You are fearfully and wonderfully made, and created by the hand of the Lord. How exciting to know that when God created you, He gave you specific gifts, talents and abilities that no one else shares but you. From the beginning of time, He knew that one day you would be faithfully serving Him and married to a Pastor. And in His graciousness, He has equipped you for this very purpose and for this very season of your life. Our joy comes as we embrace the place that He has for us. Even as minister's wives.

So, I was musing the other day, *Just what are the prerequisites for being a minister's wife?* Are the job requirements to be cute, perfect, always smiling, piano or organ player, soprano singer, perfect marriage, perfect children... absolutely not! There is no prerequisite except to love the Lord your God with all your heart, to love your husband and your children with all your heart.

I recently read a testimony of a young pastor's wife who was in her early twenties and had been at a meeting where women who have been serving along side their husbands as "veteran" minister's wives shared with the younger women things that would be expected of them. One thing they shared was that part of being a good pastor and a good pastor's wife was having people over for dinner every Sunday after church, set a beautiful table with fine china and your best crystal and silver. Thank God, I can not find that anywhere in the Bible. I am usually exhausted on Sunday after church, so I could not imagine having to entertain and cook for families every Sunday. For me, as for many of you, Sunday afternoon is nap time.

If I had an opportunity to talk with this young pastor's wife, the first thing that I would share is to love and support your husband and your children. Billy Graham once said: "If we had it to do all over again, we would read more and pray more; we would travel less and spend much more time with our families."

I know that our schedules are busy, and at times it can seem that we are going in different directions with the different involvements in church, sports, and social activities. During the busy-ness of life and ministry remember this... your most important relationships are with your family. Take time to ask the Lord how to preserve and protect those family relationships. Ask him how to fit in more time with your husband. How to make time to spend with your older children and younger ones. How to find more mo-

ments to spend with your sons and your daughters.

The second thing that I would share is to "find your place." There is not a set mold for a pastor's wife. I remember the first church we pastured. I was in

my mid-twenties, and we had served as youth pastors before this. As a youth pastor's wife, there were not a lot of "expectations" on me: I had a young child and people understood the demands of a young mother and a youth pastor. But when we moved to pastor our first church, the rules changed, and no one told me. I was not brought up in a Christian home. I was the first person in my family to come to know Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior, so I did not know the "rules" for a pastor's wife. I remember my husband and I being introduced to the congregation as the new pastors. I was excited and a little nervous. All the pastor's wives I knew were much older than I was, and they all seemed to be dignified and talented. I was thinking "what do I have to offer?" Well that first service went well. I am sure my husband preached a good sermon, I don't really remember. But this one thing I do remember... After the service that day a lady with her adult son came up to me and introduced themselves. They were sharing with me how excited they were to have us as their new Pastors. The mother began to ask me what seemed like 20 questions, to which all my answers seemed to be wrong. Do you play the piano? No. Do you play the organ? No. Do you play any instrument? No. Oh, you must sing? No. After several more questions, the son finally interrupted and asked, well what do you do? I do not remember my exact answer; I just remember feeling that I had nothing to offer. They finally gave me a hug and said their good-byes for the day, but right before leaving, they began to talk to one another about who I reminded them of. They looked at me and said I reminded them of one of their favorite T.V. personalities. They said that I looked just like Tammy Faye Baker. Wow! What an introduction to pastoring.

The remainder of our time at this church was a challenging time, and a time of growth for me, personally. You see, it did not matter that I did not sing, play the piano, or any other instrument. God had given me gifts and abilities that He wanted me to use. I had to find "my place." It is true for you as well. He has placed you in this position, not to fit into a mold, but to be molded by Him and used by Him for His glory. He has a place for you. It is a place that will bring you fruitfulness and fulfillment. I Thessalonians



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5:24 "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." You see, it is key that you find your place, because when you find your place, you will not only serve your family better, but you will serve your church better.

Remember, you are fearfully and wonderfully made. You have unique gifts and talents that will bless your church family, but the greatest family you will bless is your very own.

Veronica Reece and her husband pastor a church in Georgia. They have four children and she is currently homeschooling two of their children, and the oldest has graduated and is in college. They adopted their youngest child from Guatemala

She teaches and lives Titus 2:3-5, while being a strong woman and honoring wife. Veronica has a rich heritage of faith and contagious enthusiasm. As she leads beside her husband, she is a frequent speaker at church and is very involved in leading their women's ministry. Veronica is a sought-after speaker and travels yearly speaking at women's conferences and special events.

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