

Ministering as a Family : 10 Things I'm still learning

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- I. Intro
 - a. Wolf Family Story
 - b. My experience is limited, so I hope you will share your experiences and tips
- II. 10 Things
 - a. Becoming a family changes your ministry.
 - i. Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.
 - 1. Something new has formed. Your identity really has changed.
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 7: 32 – 33 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. ³³ But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—
 - 1. This is a bit of a “stay single” campaign in scripture
 - 2. Scriptures tell us that part of my job is to please my wife. (gulp?)
 - b. Honor one another's gifts
 - i. Vive la Difference. One reason you married was because you saw qualities you didn't have.
 - ii. Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith
 - c. Learn when to lead and when to follow
 - i. My wife is a native Ukrainian. She understands the culture.
 - ii. Ephesians 5:20-21 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.
 - d. Appreciate the seasons
 - i. Ecclesiastes 3:1
 - ii. Continually changing dynamics of family
 - iii. When my daughter was born, it opened new doors
 - e. Don't sacrifice your family for ministry success
 - i. But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8
 - f. Keep good boundaries between ministry and family
 - i. You are a human being, not a human doing
 - ii. Have family times apart from church.

- iii. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?" I Timothy 3:4-5
 - g. Teach your children to minister alongside you.
 - i. Don't just drag them along, let them participate in appropriate actions
 - ii. What do they like to do? What are they capable of doing?
 - iii. Be sensitive to their abilities, emotional well being
 - iv. Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
 - h. Your attitudes about ministry and church will be reflected in your family
 - i. *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.* Colossians 4:6
 - ii. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary ^[a]edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. Eph 4:29
 - iii. If you want bitter kids, complain about how hard their life is.
 - iv. Worship girl analogy
 - i. Keep communication high
 - i. Communication is the art of expressing in godly ways what is in my heart, and of hearing completely and understanding what another thinks and feels. (Shepherding a child's heart, Tedd Tripp)
 - j. Guard your marriage
 - i. Be careful of relationships
- III. Group questions and discussion