will inevitably be some friction. At times like these the minister may feel misunderstood at home and bask in the adulation he receives in public. Unless he is anchored by a living experience with Jesus Christ and a firm commitment and loyalty to the woman he has married, he may start looking to his congregation for the satisfaction of his personal needs. If this happens, disaster lies just around the corner.

When I was a ministerial intern in my first year out of college, my senior pastor took it upon himself to offer me some counsel. "Roger, always remember," he said, "that no other woman has anything that your wife doesn't have." Looking back on more than 38 years of married life together, I have come to see that this constituted some of the best advice I have ever received. The wise man told us the same:

May you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man’s wife? (Prov. 5:18-20)

Ellen White has also offered valuable counsel:

Though difficulties, perplexities, and discouragements may arise, let neither husband nor wife harbor the thought that their union is a mistake or a disappointment. Determine to be all that it is possible to be to each other. Continue the early attentions. In every way encourage each other in fighting the battles of life. Study to advance the happiness of each other. Let there be mutual love, mutual forbearance. Then marriage, instead of being the end of love, will be as it were the very beginning of love. The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven.

Around every family there is a sacred circle that should be kept unbroken. Within this circle no other person has a right to come. Let not the husband or the wife permit another to share the confidences that belong solely to themselves.¹

**Respect for Individuality**

The passage in Ephesians is infused with a deep sense of respect for the wife as a person of great worth. She is an individual to be cherished—not merely another means of enhancing the pastor’s ministry, like a set of theological books or a piece of multimedia