equipment. Her need to find personal fulfillment and achieve career goals is just as important as his. “Husbands, . . . be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers” (1 Peter 3:7).

Note that husband and wife are partners. I like that word. The wife does not play second fiddle to the virtuoso. She is not a courtier serving her husband, the sovereign. She is a partner! They are equal—her physical strength is not as great, and her emotional life is more fragile. Thus the need for respect and consideration. It is the pastor husband’s duty to provide not only for her physical protection and material well-being, but also for the emotional support that will foster her sense of inner security and personal worth.

Still, husband and wife are equal in all the fundamentals that define their personhood. Both are equally made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). Both are equally called by the gospel (Gal. 3:28). The pastor must not attempt to be conscience for his wife or seek to control her spiritual life. He dare not dictate the forms of religious expression that she should use. She has a direct pipeline to God and need not go through her husband. While he may minister as her pastor, he is never to be her priest. He ought to encourage her own spiritual integrity.

Pastors operate under great pressure at times. There is the challenge of goals and the weight of souls—not to mention the obduracy of the saints. With nerves frayed the pastor may find himself snapping at the one he loves most—his wife. But our Ephesians passage calls upon husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church. Think of His divine patience under provocation. The minister who lets Christ live within will be tender and gentle even in dealing with those matters about which there is disagreement. “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them” (Col. 3:19).

**Intimacy**

As important as are the traits mentioned above, we now come to something even more fundamental. The Christian pastor might well