the halves over the earth. Ever since, the myth has it, each half has been searching for its other half. This yearning for completion and fulfillment through finding one’s “other self” illustrates the type of relationship symbolized by the intimate marriage.

Husband and wife are to be closer to each other than to anything else in the world. Pastor, that relationship is to take precedence over your career, over your studies, over your hobbies, over the conference goals, over your side interests, over everything.

Husband and wife are also to be closer to each other than to anyone else in the world. You need to be closer to your wife than to your church members, parents, friends, fellow ministers—even closer than to your children. Only God should be closer to you than your wife.

At the risk of sounding like a hopeless romantic, permit me to share what one expositor drew from Genesis 2:24:

Husband and wife should be like two candles burning together, which make the house more lightsome; or like two fragrant flowers bound up in one nosegay, that augment its sweetness; or like two well-tuned instruments, which sounding together make the more melodious music. Husband and wife—what are they but as two springs meeting, and so joining their streams that they make but one current?

**Priority**

If Scripture does indeed support the ideas about husband-wife relationships that I have shared, then it follows that another theme must be heard—that of priority. Each owes the other a very high priority on his or her life schedule. And this is often very difficult for ministers to arrange—or sometimes even to understand. At this point I offer a confession.

As a young college student studying for the ministry, I was strongly impressed with the sacredness and importance of my calling. My teachers related stories of sacrifice and devotion in the cause and urged us to give of ourselves unselfishly for the finishing of God’s work. Nothing could equal in importance the salvation of lost men and women. I emerged with high ideals and a lofty concept of ministry. But somehow I failed to balance this zeal with the