

RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL  
Prophetic Insight

3/20/2020 "Therefore we must pay much more careful heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away"

## Helping Your Husband Avoid The Manure

**"A wife of noble character  
is her husband's crown!"**

with  
Sue Dowgiewicz

**"She speaks with wisdom, and  
faithful instruction is on her tongue!"**



**Help Get Salt In Your Home  
And Keep It!**

### From A Wife With The Gift Of Exhortation

Mike has been producing *Stay Out Of The Manure Pile* videos for men, and we know that a number of wives have been watching them too. I'd like you women to keep in mind an important principle which has guided my own life for many years: **"A wife is a public compliment or a public rebuke for her husband."** (We discuss this in our July 2003 Newsletter, "You Belong To Me")

[https://restorationministries.org/download/200307youbelongsome%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/200307youbelongsome%20(1).pdf)

I'd like to address some "salt" issues for you as a wife, or as a woman who has friends you can help in their role as wives. I'm pretty sure you've noticed over the past couple years how so much media today has focused on seducing women to defy any and all of the commands, teachings and guidance that are found in God's Word. Girls from the earliest age are being imbued with their right to be independent and to make a name for themselves just because they are female. Blaring from every media outlet is the underlying impression of men as "Who needs 'em?!"

How contrary this perspective is from our Father's point of view! HE is the One Who created men and women to be *distinctly different*. HE designed the marriage covenant for those differences to complement one another in a holy and permanent union. It was HIS plan

for a husband to see how much he needs this most suitable life partner he has been given and to love her beyond any self-interest he might have. And it was Father's intention for wives to respect their husbands and to be lovingly alongside them in the God-given purposes He presents in His Book.

When was the last time those plans and purposes of our Father were reinforced in your own heart by others? I've taken my role as Mike's wife very seriously, and numerous times I've made a mess of it by falling into the trap of independence and self-sufficiency. But the Spirit of Christ always graciously reminds me of my covenant union with Mike and how I can most effectively represent that covenant to others: ***to be a public compliment of my husband***. That motive has grown increasingly foreign to so many women even within Christianity! Yet to be filled by the Spirit with His peaceable fruit especially in regard to my relationship with my husband is a "compliment" which can readily be seen by others.

What has so insidiously been taking place in our culture to deceive so many women even within Christianity to "revise" God's wise ways and to adopt the ways of the world? Think about the ***spiritual adultery*** that so many "Christian" women are taking part in by serving "another god" — the world's view of successful womanhood. Competing to beat men in every avenue of life has become the national norm — a goal that every little girl is force-fed from the classroom to the TV room. Young and old alike dress to flaunt their bodies, leaving nothing to imagination and certainly reflecting nothing of the modesty which is precious in our Father's sight. And virginity among males and females alike is mocked as a social death sentence or a psychological aberration. Fidelity has become an outdated restriction according to the humanist-touted principle of self-focus, self-gratification, and self-pursuit.

All of this has taken a dreadful toll on marriages. Fewer and fewer are even bothering to marry, not wanting the responsibility of raising children in such chaotic times. Within just a few generations, women who do marry are being overcome by frustration and unfulfilled expectations because their husbands aren't the kind of men they thought they'd be. Younger women today have grown up with movies which depict an action-oriented strong female heroine leading the way for men to follow. Yet deep inside there is a longing to be cherished and protected by the very men they've tried to dominate! Women discover that the man they marry isn't comforting and understanding and kind as women are, and tension rips their relationship apart because neither partner feels loved, accepted or understood by the other.

Then there's the money issue. So many wives are plagued by fretting and worrying over their finances. So they take matters into their own hands and take on responsibilities our Father requires of their husbands, and then wonder why they are so distressed and weary. In His Fatherly severe mercy, *Abba* is allowing marriages to be strained because wives are fretting about things, especially finances, which He has never given them the responsibility or grace to bear (see 1Peter 3:1-6).

Please consider this sad observation:

Many children are growing up in Christian homes feeling like they are expendable, as if their parents would be a lot happier if they weren't around. The majority of children in Christian homes are ***outsourced*** to a humanist indoctrination institution (public education) which exercises far more influence on their character and values and goals than the few hours a day they spend interacting with their parents. Add to this the religious system which is not only

populated mainly by female Sunday School teachers, but also uses a teaching methodology of silence while a professional person preaches. *Unquestioning passivity* is the learning pattern your children are being filled with. And that's a scheme of Satan which makes it all the easier for the world's ways and goals to sink in than the words of an ancient text which seems to have no usefulness today.

In their own homes many children are brushed aside by their busy fathers and mothers who are all too glad to let their kids become evermore addicted to their handheld devices. As long as their children are getting good grades and becoming proficient in some activity or skill which will help them get into college, many Christian parents feel they've done their duty. But it's time to ask yourself if your home has lost (or never had) a sense of being a refuge for each family member. Ask yourself if you are preoccupied with wanting what other people have and are discontent because you're dissatisfied with your standard of living. If so, your worry load may be disrupting the peace of your home and your marital relationship as well as convincing your children they are a burden to you.

Keep in mind that any fretting blocks the Holy Spirit from helping you grow inner fruit. If you're a fretting wife or you yearn for more of this world's goods than your husband can provide, then you may be teaching your children to give way to all the worldly ideas and values they see pictured in the media. The consequences of that path are devastating: you're training them to become enemies of God (see James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17).

From the beginning of creation God intended for a wife to be an *ezer*, a lifelong companion and the helper who is most suitable for her husband as they build their lives together as one. That's the pattern applauded by Peter as he described the virtues of Sarah, the wife of Abraham. Having a right attitude toward your husband and not giving way to fear mark our lineage as Sarah's daughters (see 1 Peter 3:1-6). Yet it's been sad for me to see how very few who say they love and serve Jesus extend that kind of loving and helpful service to their husbands! All too often wives give way to pouting and manipulation and even domination in their marriage, which only causes their husbands to erupt in frustrated anger, brooding silence, or just up and leave. And if you're a wife who is as set (or even more set) on achieving success according to the world's values and goals as your husband is, then you're missing the role our Father specifically intends for you to have.

Learning to yield to the Spirit in becoming the wife Mike needs hasn't come easy for me. I was raised by a divorced mother to have a strong independent spirit. So I'm well aware of what I need to put to death so I can fully belong to my husband as my Lord Jesus wants. I share my own pilgrimage in a Youtube video, "67. Counsel For The Ezer—Introduction."

[youtube.com/watch?v=g8siiyVEw10&list=PLQRURo\\_TbJfIxBT6G8HYHIFFAtTknwm0V&index=70](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8siiyVEw10&list=PLQRURo_TbJfIxBT6G8HYHIFFAtTknwm0V&index=70)

- I encourage you to watch the *Stay Out Of The Manure Pile* videos with your husband. If you have any questions about what you need to change *in yourself, not in your husband*, so you can be the *ezer* your man needs, you can write me, [suegdowgie@gmail.com](mailto:suegdowgie@gmail.com)
- If you and your husband both want to ask questions as a couple, send your email to [mikedowgie@gmail.com](mailto:mikedowgie@gmail.com). Mike and I will together read your questions, pray about them and answer them. We've found the email approach much more effective than phone conversations, which have been unfruitful as a means of helping individuals or marriages.

**"If anyone wills to do God's will  
he will know concerning My teaching  
whether it is of God or I speak from Myself"  
(John 7:17).**

As a wife of 50 years I'd like to make a point about the *Stay Out Of The Manure Pile* videos. Mike has never taught "milk" issues to men. He was discipled that a true evaluation of a man who follows Jesus is this: **"A Christian man does what our Lord Jesus requires of him no matter how he feels about it."** In other words, a man in Christ who loves and serves Him in obedient trust puts that trust into action with a resolute SENSE OF DUTY in his Lord.

We've been reminiscing about our years together in ministry, and a number of memories stand out especially for Mike. Many evangelical men in particular became anxious and angry on retreats because Mike never conducted a "Bible Study". He found that the far more biblical approach which Jesus used was interactive and personal. Each man is responsible to pursue our Lord's Book on his own. Most just needed some help in putting it into practice — to *live* the way of the Lord as cited in Matthew 7:24, Luke 8:21, Philippians 4:9. It's *doing* Father's will that counts, not just knowing about it!

Over the years when Mike served as a shepherd in three home fellowships and as an elder in two congregations, he'd meet with the men early in the morning (5AM) to guide them in the process to use with their wives and families so they could apply God's Word in their homes. Each husband needed to take personal responsibility to "wash" their wife and family in putting Scripture truth into action day by day. How each man did that was up to him and the Holy Spirit. Mike certainly didn't tell them what to do! That would have meant depending on another human being, the pattern which Nicolaitanism thrives on.

As a wife I really appreciated his approach to these men since I know that every family situation is different. We had made it a practice from our early years onward to spend time together in prayer before work, especially about any issues we knew each of us would be facing. And each of us would explore scripture individually some time each day and then share with the other what the Spirit had shown us.

I realize that our life journey has been far different than yours has been. Not many get to experience so many avenues of Christianity as we have in the specific call which our Father has given us. But we employed some patterns which are quite the opposite of the *passivity* which so many experience in their congregation system. The underlying principles I'm talking about can be carried over into anyone's life.

For example, Mike always asked people to sit in a circle in order to facilitate meaningful discussion. You're probably used to sitting in services or classes in which the teacher is up front lecturing others who are seated in rows. But that pattern doesn't encourage interaction! When people sit in a circle they can see each other's expressions and feel a part of the discussion. (I too followed that design with the women on retreats to encourage mutual discussion.) But all too often there were younger men in particular with an intellectual bent who criticized Mike because he didn't do "expository preaching" over a set of verses. (If you're familiar with our materials, you'll recognize right away that all that the Spirit has given

us to share is based on Scripture. We use Scripture throughout so you can personally and prayerfully weigh all that is presented, and discover through the Spirit how to apply God's Word to your own life situation.)

Interestingly, the older men on these retreats recognized right away that Mike's teaching was straight from the Bible. He geared it toward each man purposing by grace to do our Father's will. His own testimonies clearly demonstrated how Bible truth had been put into practice as an example to others so they could apply it in their own walk. Later, during our time in Israel we realized that this was the Hebraic way of developing *halakhahs*: taking biblical truth and then applying it to your own life. (We share a lot about this in our free online book, *Christian Halakhahs*.) We certainly didn't see our role as telling others how they should live. Rather, we provided the opportunity for men and women alike to have a loving zeal for Jesus so that they were resolute as individuals and as couples to live in a way that pleased Father and lifted up Jesus as Lord.

So I'm writing as the wife of this specific man whom Father gave me to be alongside in loving support. And as a wife of a specific man, you too have the essential role of being alongside your man in loving support too! You can diligently seek the voice of the Spirit as you go through Scripture each day and ask for *rhema* — specific applications of that truth — to situations you and your husband are going through. And then be sensitive to the appropriate time to share your insights so that you can be fully heard. Make sure you don't fall into the snare of sounding spiritually superior, telling him what he (or you as a couple) should do. I've slipped into that pit too many times, and the result has been antagonizing rather than helpful.

Let's return to our topic of your role as a wife who is watching the Manure Pile video series alongside her husband. Mike is relying on the point that the men who are viewing these segments are resolutely determined to live in such a way in the Spirit of Christ that they can by grace bring glory to our Father. This isn't a by-the-numbers approach of earning any favors from God. Mike and I are both expecting that these guys (and you too!) will have explored and discussed with you some of our free online training materials, such as *Jesus In Your Home* video series or *Discussing How To Restore The Early Church*. To further help you both walk in union on your faith journey together, we encourage you as a couple to develop a *pilgrimage* understanding of the Scriptures through our *Going To The High Places* series. It's through foundational materials like these that you'll find the Bible-based foundations and Hebraic underpinning of what our Father is restoring.

This may seem like a lot of "work", but I'd love for you as another wife to realize how important this way of life in Jesus is especially in these turbulent times of unrest. Never let your husband feel like he's alone in this journey! Even if you've been married just a short time, you can glean wisdom from some older followers of Jesus who have gone before you and have learned from their stumbling and mistakes. Our Father leaves no doubt that there's a place in your life to receive correction in your spiritual walk from those who have gained wisdom:

•"*Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their trust. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*" (Hebrews 13:7,8);

- *"Let yourself be persuaded by the ones leading you and submit to them. They watch on behalf of your souls as those who will be rendering an account, in order that they may do this with joy, and not groaning, for this would be profitless to you" (Hebrews 13:17, literal translation);*
- *"We ask you to respect those who are working hard among you, those who are guiding you in the Lord and confronting you in order to help you change" (1Thessalonians 5:12,CJB).*

I mention these particular passages because most people who are using what the Holy Spirit gives us to share have never met us. So in place of personal contact, we discuss in a number of our materials some anecdotes and testimonies about our lives and insights the Spirit has impressed in us along the way from these experiences. When it's been appropriate we've recounted our own sins and our subsequent repentance so we could give people hope of the unfailing grace and compassion of our heavenly Father. Our Lord Jesus has guided us as our amazing Shepherd through trials that we never thought would end. Maybe you feel like you're in that same situation now. Along the way we've learned that two deeply embedded tormenting thoughts keep so many people, men and women alike, in a prison of hopeless despair:

- (1). They've sinned so grievously that Father could never forgive them.**
- (2). That the problems they face in life are impossible for Him to solve.**

Take those deceiving thoughts captive right now! The enemy of your soul would have you believe that Jesus isn't big enough to cover your sin. NOT SO! Out of love for you He paid for that sin — so don't let the deceiver convince you that He will despise your repentant and contrite heart. And about that impossible problem — there's absolutely NOTHING that the Creator of the entire universe can't turn around according to His perfect and righteous will. So take both those false thoughts captive and bring them to Jesus. His Spirit promises to grow all kinds of fruit within you, like the peace which only He can give. Don't let those assailing thoughts rob you. Giving way to that deceit robs your husband and children of His peaceable presence in your home. So decide right this moment whom you're going to believe: the author of lies or the King of the Universe!

As a wife and mother I've given way to these assailing thoughts along the way and found myself tearing down my home instead of building it up. So these words aren't merely theoretical regarding my role and your role as wives who want to live in the love and peace and joy of Jesus as Lord of our mutual lives! Our personal pilgrimage has been blessed not only by people who influenced or corrected us, but more importantly by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in us (see 2Corinthians 3:17,18).

Let's briefly discuss an important point here about "sanctification" — being set apart by the Holy Spirit and the ongoing process of being made holy for His use. You've probably been in congregations where individuals stood up publicly and let everyone know how sinful they were BEFORE they encountered Jesus. This takes place generally among congregations or gatherings in which "The Sinner's Prayer" is used to get people "saved." (That's a practice you won't find in the Bible!) But consider this. You'll recognize that someone has indeed embraced by grace the authentic Covenant Gospel and is a new creation in the Spirit when they can bear witness to the areas of their life which were changed AFTER they were born again. That's the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.



At this point in time and in this series our primary goal is to reach married couples. We're not leaving out other categories of people. But marriages are under such stress for so many reasons in this Godless society, and couples and their home are the "basic building block" for producing generations which will expand the Kingdom. Helping couples strip away their Nicolaitan/Hellenist thought patterns has been very important to us. That's because we know firsthand what a struggle it is for couples to flee such a familiar but unbiblical system that dominates Christianity.

Over the course of many centuries this pattern of religious teaching and practice keeps producing *passivity and spectatorship* through an "audience" approach. This pattern has become the norm yet it has produced a readily accepted but highly ineffectual system of religious expression which has lost its salt. There's so very little positive impact on society now by Christians because we collectively have *lost our salt* and are incapable of stemming moral decay or preserving the good. But because this pattern of passivity has become so comfortable and familiar within congregations, any thought of fleeing it may seem more like passing through "*the valley of the shadow of death.*" As with the nature of repentance, you need to take off the old in order to put on the "new" yet original biblical pattern. And you won't be able to attach the Hebraic foundations to the established system of Hellenized Nicolaitanism. We believe this impossibility is one of the reasons our Lord Jesus shared the parable of the old and new cloth and the old and new wineskins (Luke 5:36,37).

It may be that you are currently divorced. It doesn't matter whether you initiated the divorce or your former husband did. If you're reading this, *you* are the one who has "ears to hear"! So keep in mind that you have sinned against the Holy One Who established the covenant of marriage. It's because the marriage covenant represents on earth our spiritual Covenant with Him that He hates divorce (Malachi 2:15,16). He could have used you and your husband in a way which He can't with the covenant being dissolved. Dear woman, I'm not bringing this up to inflict a guilt trip on you. Rather, my heart grieves over so many divorced women we've encountered who are full of bitterness and accusation against their former mate and haven't forgiven him. These women are still in bondage. They are unable to receive the healing which only the Spirit can provide when they forgive from their heart and receive Father's forgiveness when they do repent!

Does your heart sorrow over the breaking of your marriage covenant because a broken covenant misrepresents our Father's covenant with His people through Christ? Then you are prepared to respond to the Spirit's convicting work of taking ownership of your own contribution to the divorce no matter what brought it about. We've never met a divorced person who was totally innocent, though obviously one partner may have suffered far more than the other. If you haven't repented of your broken covenant before our Father, please do so now. Most thankfully the blood of Christ has atoned for this sin. But if you don't see breaking your marriage covenant as a sin, then you won't see with a grateful heart of godly sorrow that this too needs His forgiveness and cleansing which He promises for you in 1 John 1:9 when you confess it as sin.

Our Lord Jesus does place limits on divorce and remarriage which, when violated, constitute sin in our Father's sight (see Matthew 5:31,32; 19:3-9). We aren't saying that true repentance by a divorced person for having sinned against our Father doesn't change their ability to remarry. But the failure of so many who have previously divorced to appreciate how

they *defamed His Covenant* keeps them from being used by the Spirit in ways He would otherwise use them whether they remarry or not.

If you are remarried, you need to really grasp the depth of your sin against our Father. If you don't, you'll carry a lot of baggage from your first marriage into each and every subsequent marriage. But if you really do want His grace to permeate your present marriage, be resolute in making this marriage covenant represent your spiritual Covenant with Him in Jesus. We hope you'll both discover in your marriage that His forgiveness and the work of His grace are more important to you than your next breath!

Here's another key point if both you and your husband are watching the *Stay Out Of The Manure Pile* series. As Mike's wife I can definitely bear witness that our pilgrimage in serving our Lord has never been static! There's been a lot of change along the way. Over the years the Holy Spirit has allowed Mike to see the "underbelly" of Christianity, so to speak — the part which **image-minded religious leaders** have tried to keep secret. Let me give you an example of what I mean. Thirty-plus years ago my husband was counseling clergy and other church leaders. The superintendent of one of the largest Protestant denominations told him privately that over half of their clergy were actively involved in adultery. Given the atmosphere of compromise with the world's standards which characterizes so much of Christendom today, I doubt the percentage has diminished.

As you watch these videos, please don't think that Mike is speaking out of a heart of bitterness or vengeance against the Nicolaitan system which has produced such passivity especially among men. I know how much he grieves over such widespread deception that's been unchallenged within Christianity. You might better understand aspects of the life of sorrow into which our Father has recruited Mike (and me as his wife and helper) if you read Ezekiel 8. The Holy Spirit has "grabbed Mike by the hair" on many occasions to expose the seduction and **spiritual adultery** which he has observed as an eyewitness in seminaries, Christian colleges, acclaimed Christian organizations, and faith communities.

It's at this present time that the Holy Spirit has given him permission to come alongside men and their families who have been seduced into **spiritual adultery**. He feels that Father is giving him one last means of helping other men flee deception and complacent passivity.

**While we were still in Israel our Father told Mike that unless the shepherding role of older, spiritually wise men is restored, nothing else the Spirit gave us would work. If your husband is still a younger man, would you encourage him to let my husband help him grow by the Spirit into a shepherd who represents your heavenly Father in the compassionate care of His children?**

***"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay."***

To be fully honest with you, it hasn't been an easy journey being married over 50 years to a man with a prophetic gift! For many years Mike never felt free to share with me any of the sin-confronting prophecies the Holy Spirit had given him for specific people. Nor did he reveal to me the painful assaults on his reputation by clergy who were holding onto their unconfessed sin. Nor was I aware of how he was being maligned when through the Spirit he exposed tolerated sin within various Christian organizations and institutions. I had no idea how to come



alongside to help him when I saw him being emotionally beaten down due to causes I was totally unaware of. And that frustration on both our parts placed a great strain on our marriage. I am so thankful for the faithfulness of my Lord Jesus to carry me through such difficulties. I've tasted the grace of His loving rescue often enough to be able to guide other wives when they're going through painful trials as well.

Here's just one example of the sort of trials Mike underwent in standing up for justice.

He had been hired as a financial personnel consultant by the seminary he had just graduated from. In the process of his work he uncovered such categorically illegal activity in the institution's financial practices that he had to seek guidance from several federal agencies. I knew nothing of the self-protecting retaliatory measures the Administration was taking against him until one day I went to his office to ask him out to lunch. When I arrived, about 20 of the seminary staff were crammed in his office. I was certainly curious and asked why they were there. One of the older ladies showed me a memo which the Administration had sent out ordering the staff to have nothing to do with Mike.

They'd gathered in his office because the Holy Spirit had impressed into them that what Mike had been doing was just and right, no matter what the Administration did to try to malign him. We all proceeded to the cafeteria together — only to find that the cafeteria staff had been ordered to not sell anything to him! (How this all turned out is another story. However, the resolution involved a lot of spiritual warfare and exposure of hidden sin!) As a relatively new follower of Jesus I was amazed that such treachery could take place at a "Christian" institution and bring forth such animosity against my husband, a man who was only seeking truth and justice.

This next anecdote may help you see what it's like to be a wife who presses on alongside her husband especially when the road isn't smooth and free of obstacles.

We had just returned to the US from Israel with the Hebraic foundations which the Holy Spirit had given us. On our last night at Mike's cousin's house in Miami where we had been organizing the notes we compiled in Israel, we both had really intense dreams. Mike was brought to Mount Horeb, the Mountain of Desolation. As he stood on the mountaintop he heard our Father say, "Mike, I've desolated you for several years, removing that which was not like My Son. Listen! I never wanted you to know these truths before this time. Now, GO and FREE the captives!"

Father then told Mike to wake me up and tell me about his dream. As I awakened I was having a dream too! I was on a mountaintop that was a flat plateau. Behind me was darkness and steep, jagged rocks that represented my past. But ahead of me, light was growing brighter and brighter like the dawn. I heard a voice saying, 'Press on into the light. You can look side to side to see who's going with you, but you can't go back.' We both knew that God had given us these specific dreams to encourage us to keep pressing on to share what He is restoring.

We've moved nine times since that night. I'm a "nester" who doesn't like change, so I really need to know in my spirit that it's our Father Who's telling us to move. During the course of those years we've met a number of clergy who have tried to discredit our ministry. Years ago even a former president of the National Evangelical Association spread malicious rumors about our work, until his own homosexual sin was exposed and he resigned.

I've related these accounts to you for a particular reason. Since we began sharing the Hebraic foundations we've met numerous couples who began making them a way of life. At first both the husband and the wife were enthusiastic and filled with Godly purpose. But after a while the wife began looking back at the social activities and relationships she was losing and began to give her husband a hard time. Not wanting to pay the relational cost, the wife all

too often pressured her husband to go back into the Nicolaitan system. There he once again grew disheartened, often giving up personally leading his family in loving, obedient trust.

There have probably been seasons in your own marriage in which your heart is frustrated over your husband and you just don't seem to be able to communicate on the same page. I understand where you're at because it *has* been a challenging journey being married to a prophetic man who doesn't know how to duck. Sometimes I've recalled how Father delivered Mrs. Ezekiel to eternity early so she wouldn't have to see all the pain her husband had to endure as a messenger of God .

Even as we have made the Hebraic foundations our way of life, we've had our struggles. We've had to forgive each other from our hearts and humbly ask forgiveness and rebuild our marriage from scratch several times. So if you find yourself annoyed at your husband or you think he should be doing more for you, here's some encouraging counsel which the Spirit has nudged me to do time and again. Spend more hours on your knees or during those nighttime awake periods to cry out to Jesus for His love for your mate. Focus on praying for Father to bless your man. Intentionally take your thoughts captive and refrain from criticizing your husband or complaining to others about him (especially as a thinly guised "prayer request". After you've done that for two weeks you may find your whole attitude and responsiveness being transformed into a clearer reflection of Christ in you.

And finally for you husbands who may be reading this. Mike lives by a code that some of you may need to adopt:

1. My husband's word to another person is his bond with them (Psalm 15:4). If you say you're going to do something, follow through! If you absolutely can't, don't offer blame or excuses. Instead, take responsibility for the distress or inconvenience you've caused and ask forgiveness.
2. Mike intentionally uses a lot of questions in making plans with others when he's trying to make wise decisions. This is the process which has helped us as a couple forestall hurt feelings and is one that could very well help your marriage too. The sequence is: consideration > proposing > planning > decision making > execution. In each of the steps of this process Mike makes extra effort to involve in discussion everyone whom the decision will affect (Proverbs 13:10; 20:18a).
3. Mike and I both absolutely rely on the *rhema* of our Lord's Spirit in making wise decisions. Our own spirits get agitated when we hear someone relying only on their own reasoning and rationale. Prayerfully seeking confirmation as our Lord emphasized in Matthew 18:18-20 is the core of receiving our Lord's assurance that our Father will hear and will intervene in response. Paul reaffirms this non-optional pattern when he writes: "*By the mouth of two or three witnesses every rhema [every specific word of God's will] shall be established*" (2Corinthians 13:1).

Mike and I want to help equip couples in their marriage to be the best representatives of our Lord Jesus which His Spirit and His grace can make of you both. You are in a process of spiritual growth together so that as you mature in love-grounded obedient trust, he may serve as a future shepherd of a faith family and you may become a loving and wise older woman who teaches younger women how to love their husband and family (Titus 2:3-5).

Sue