

Women in Ministry to Children

by David Boyd Director, National Children's Ministries Agency

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage." (2 Timothy 4:2)

pastor must be a person of many talents-someone who can encourage, guide, and lead many individuals of every background imaginable. The children's pastor, even more so, must possess a wide array of skills and abilities. You must be an individual who can teach and inspire the children, raise up an army of volunteers who will follow your vision, and inspire the church to care about the lost children of the community. The children's pastor must be patient, gentle, strong, creative, disciplined, wise, faithful, humble, and determined.

Many women, single or married, possess a burning passion to pastor children and to lead the laity to a greater effectiveness of ministry to children. There are also many "teams" in children's ministry in which both husbands and wives have vital roles in reaching children.

Women are used in our churches in every area of children's ministries, including the pastoral role. They are talented, passionate, and have a special God-given sensitivity to children. The role of the children's pastor is not just for men. But women in these positions have unique pressures as they learn to juggle family and ministry.



Keys to Effective Pastoring

Whether you are female or male, effective children's ministry is based upon your relationship with the Lord, your pastor, your family, and your leaders.

Your relationship with the Lord must be primary.

Don't let the "busy-ness" of the ministry come before your

personal time with the Lord. He must be in the center of all you do. Remember, it's not YOUR talents or abilities, but it is HIS ministry. Your relationship with the Lord determines your ability to follow His plans and not your own.

Your relationship with your pastor determines your long-term success.

Female children's pastors can sometimes feel they are on the bottom of the pastoral totem pole, but to be honest, in many churches, that is where children's ministries sits regardless of gender. It is your character and willingness to positively embrace your senior pastor's vision, coupled with hard work and determination, that in the long term brings balanced respect.

Your relationship with your family is crucial for long-term success in the ministry.

This is the area which is so difficult with the multi-task ministry of the children's pastor. Always evaluate every activity you do. Don't just repeat activities because you've always done them. Keep evaluating. Keep asking questions of other children's pastors. Don't fall into the trap of trying to do everything everyone else is doing. Don't be afraid of taking a year off from an activity to give yourself time to catch up and invest more time with your family.

Your relationship with your leaders is a must.

I see so many young children's pastors who have plenty of talent and drive, but they neglect caring for their leaders. You can't badger or cajole people into ministry; you must lead them. A leader isn't a leader if no one is following. When you arrive at a church, your most precious commodity is your leaders. Invest time into them. Get to know them. Heal their wounds. Become their pastor. Create a team. A positive team attracts more team members. Love your people more than you love what they do for you. If you truly love your people, you will grow a team that will impact your city and create a healthy growing children's ministry and church.

Questions for Further Study—

1. What are the keys to effective pastoring?

2. What three relationships determine your long-term success in the ministry?

3. What steps can you take to improve your relationships?



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