

Protecting Your Marriage Ministry From Disaster

“...behold, Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.” Luke 22:31

As a couple's marriage ministry grows and becomes more effective in fulfilling God's purposes, it will become a greater target for spiritual attack. This guide is intended to encourage and help protect Christian marriage mentors from spiritual/ministry attack and personal/moral failure.

It is recommended that this tool be used on a periodic basis with an accountability partner, to trigger discussion in areas that have the potential for undermining your marriage mentoring ministry.

Your Schedule

1. Is your schedule overloaded, to the point of constant weariness or neglect of your own marriage or family needs?
2. Are you taking adequate time to get away with your spouse for refreshment, renewal and rest?
3. How are you protecting your personal time with your spouse from intrusion by others?

Your Personal and Spiritual Life

1. Are you experiencing any recurring temptation, conflict or spiritual attack? Are you struggling or experiencing personal sin or failure?
2. How much are you in a “Do as I say, not as I do.” Mode in your mentoring ministry?
3. What are you specifically doing (on a regular basis) in the spiritual disciplines of Bible study, prayer, worship, repentance and fasting?
4. In what other areas in your life where you are being overly taxed (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual)?
5. Do you both have other spiritual accountability partners?

Your Marriage Relationship

1. How is your relationship with your spouse? How has it changed over the past 1-3 years?
2. How is your spouse doing spiritually? Emotionally? Physically? Relationally?
3. Is there anything that is draining your enthusiasm for marriage ministry?
4. Do you and your spouse have people you can confide in as an emotional outlet for the stresses you each face?

Your Family Relationships

1. How is your relationship with your children (and your children's spouses)?
2. Have you been taking sufficient time to spend with your family, as needed for this stage of their lives?
3. How are your children doing spiritually? Emotionally? Physically?
4. Are your family's needs being adequately protected and respected by those you are mentoring?

Your Ministry

1. Are you receiving sufficient support from your church? Do you feel a strong sense of security in your marriage ministry?
2. Do you have liberty to mentor as you feel led by the Holy Spirit? In what areas do you feel restrained? Who or what is causing that?
3. Are you being undermined by excessive negativity or non-constructive criticism by others? Are you encountering any intolerable or overwhelming adversity?
4. Do you and your spouse have other people actively mentoring or encouraging you? Are they both proactively and reactively upholding you?
5. Do you have written short/intermediate/long term goals for your continued development as a marriage mentor? How are you doing vs. them?
6. Are you overburdened with marriage ministry? Do you have adequate load sharing? Are you underutilized?
7. Are you spending any personal resources for ministry expenses that are not being reimbursed?