

Her Face

By Shari Miller



Imagine her face. It is the face of your pastor's or church worker's wife. It could be the face of a church worker in your congregation. Who is really behind her face?

Her face might shine forth with the radiant light of faith and joy as she works to the glory of God. But at the same time, her face might skillfully mask other emotions of fear, sorrow, worry, or even uncertainty.

Her fears might include fitting into a group "just like everyone else." She might be afraid to speak her true feelings in an effort to appear brave or faithful in times of trial or conflict. She almost certainly fears that she will never have a lasting friendship that is confidential and loyal.

She might grieve for lost members and friendships in the church as people come and go. She experiences sorrow due to the death of family and friends. Her heart grieves when she or her husband is criticized, not appreciated, or taken for granted.

She worries about her husband and his physical needs. She might even worry about marital difficulties or a lack of communication in her home. She worries about her children, their needs, and their future. She might worry about balancing her career with her role within her family and the church.

She might have many uncertainties about the choices she has made or the actions she has taken. She might be uncertain about her future or her place in the congregation. She could be uncertain or wary of friendships inside the church that could lead to conflicts with her husband's work. Most important, she might be uncertain that she is modeling life as a Christian woman in this unchristian world.

Perhaps in so many ways her face is like yours!

The faces of these women are much like every woman's. They experience joy, pain, heartache, love, and the plethora of emotions in the human heart. They are new wives, new mothers, new to the faith, or new to the community.

How can you be a sister in Christ to these dear women? The following suggestions might be helpful.

- Pray that God would strengthen her in her unique role.
- Be a friend in Christ; try not to put her in a position of betrayal of her husband's confidence, and don't betray her confidence.
- Find out her strengths and interests; bolster and support her talents and abilities.
- Show you care; include her in family gatherings or invite her out for lunch with the girls.
- Recognize her for who she is and don't expect her to fulfill her role with preconceived expectations.
- Know that she sins and daily needs God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ; give her that forgiveness and share the love of Jesus with her and her family.
- Thank her privately and even publicly for her contributions to the life of your church family.
- Encourage her as she strives to be a good wife and mother.

Yes, her face could be your face! Rejoice that together in Christ we are privileged to live our lives in the family of God, led and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. Through it all, we have the wonderful blessing of our Lord in Numbers 6:24–26: *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.* Q



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