

# Living In Glass Houses, Part 1

While vacationing in warm and mostly sunny Miami a few weeks ago, big news occurred. The world was shocked, alarmed, and put out with Prince Harry and Meghan. They decided to step down from their duties as members of the "Senior Royal Family" and live like semi-normal people. Gone would be the titles, the trappings of being a Royal, the constant media attention, and also their duties. They would be allowed to pursue personal business deals and just be Harry and Meghan.

A fellow preacher, Wilson Adams made the following observations and connections in the Lord's church today.

*"Q: Why are many young men walking away from preaching? Can it be they are tired? –tired of impossible expectations, -tired of trying to be "normal," -tired of constant criticism, –tired of financial stress... Sadly, many a church sets a man up for failure. He can't win because he can't be everything everyone expects him to be.*

*If you think that's hard, try being married to one.*

*"The preacher's wife" (that's her name, right?) often lives a lonely life of wanting to be "normal," yet not allowed. Sadly, and silently, many would be okay if he chose to do something else."*

I could not help but notice the nerve Wilson hit among his readers, especially the wives of preachers. He had hundreds of responses and over 60 shares. Folks, that is a lot of responses.

Let me be bold enough to address some of the issues mentioned in those responses and some personal observations on this subject. This is one of those topics' preachers can't really win while addressing. If they point out inconsistencies and hardships preachers face, it is seen

as complaining and not appreciating their role in the local congregation. As one brother said to me years ago, "The Bible says those who preach will be persecuted." Well, the persecution should not come from the brethren! I want to state that at times my family and I have come across the problems about to be addressed. Also, we are blessed with some of the most loving and encouraging brethren we could possibly meet. Brethren tend to fall into three categories; those who are friendly and encouraging, those who know preachers and their families are temporary members, and those who are discouragers and hard to get along with. By the way, the members at Lilac Road falls into the encouraging category as they have helped us in many, many ways. But there are problems preachers, their wives, and their children face. Let me name off a few and then offer a few solutions.

#### Problems:

Unrealistic expectations—this not only applies to the preacher but especially his wife. Young wives are often expected to know how to show hospitality, teach a woman's Bible Class, keep an immaculate house, keep up with all the news concerning all the members of the congregation. One time we moved into a new area and were just setting up house when a member was aghast that Regena did not know what everyone else in the community knew. We had just moved there! Those unrealistic expectations can also be on the children as they are supposed to be the perfect example to all the young people at the congregation. One passage which comes to mind is, Luke 7.33-34 "For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" No matter what Jesus did, he could not win. This goes with the preacher and his family in numerous areas. His lessons are too long/too short, too deep/not deep enough, he is standoffish/too

outgoing, and then there is his family. If they dress well, they are being too showy, if they don't dress in their Sunday best, they are presenting a bad image. If they have a nice car the brethren think they are paying too much, if they have an older vehicle, they are wasting their money. This can also apply to things like their residence, furniture, hobbies, and recreation. – Dennis Tucker (to be continued)