

My Marriage and My Ministry

*If my marriage isn't rich and fulfilling,
it will be hard for me to be a loving person;
If I don't function as a loving person,
I cannot be an effective pastor;
If I am not an effective pastor,
my work will make me increasingly frustrated;
My frustration about my work
will feed back destructively into my marriage;
This will cause my marriage
to function less and less effectively;
Therefore, working to achieve a loving and creative
marriage is a task of major importance for me.*

David and Vera Mace, *What's Happening to Clergy Marriages*, p. 28

If my marriage is rich and fulfilling,
It will be easier for me to be a loving person;
If I function as a loving person
I will be a more effective pastor;
If I am an effective pastor,
my work will please and satisfy me;
My pleasure and satisfaction in my work
will feed back constructively into my marriage;
This will cause my marriage to produce more and more joy;
Therefore, working to achieve a loving and creative
marriage is a task of major importance for me.

Paraphrase by Jane P. Ives, October 30, 2013

Visit www.marriagelovepower.net and click on "Best Practices Articles and Recommended Resources" for ministering with clergy families; marriage preparation, education, and enrichment; ministries with those in crisis, transition, and special situations; and relationship education in general. Or search by title or topic at <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/intergenerational-family-ministries>.

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