

with a certain young woman that would make everything work while. And they are married and they may be tremendously happy for a while. But Oh how easy it is to take each other for granted. How easy it is to simply assume things and not to examine our life together and see whether we are carrying out our part as we should. If something happens; if some emergency happened, of course we would do everything we could to help our partner; but things go on from day to day and other things crowd out the attention/~~the~~ the care the thought that we ought to give to each other in family life. We should examine it and think it through and be sure we are doing as we should.

I knew a minister once who did a wonderful work in counselling. He would have people coming to his church constantly coming to talk over their problems and he would help them. He would help people in marital difficulty. Often instead of getting home at the regular time he'd get home two or three ~~hours~~ hours late, because he was so occupied he didn't think of fact his wife had prepared a good meal, and had it ready and was expecting him at a certain time and then he did not show up. He would tell her five minutes ten minutes before the meal, Oh I must go and see about helping so and so. I must see about this and that. And all the sudden he got home one day and his wife had disappeared and taken the children with him. He went to her sister's house. Her sister came to the door and she said, You are never going to see your children again. He said to me, If I had spent 1/10th as much time thinking about my family life, thinking about what was necessary to keep my wife happy as I spent thinking about the welfare of the ~~people~~ people to whom I was giving counselling this would never have taken place. The man had to drop out of the church. It would be very hard for any other church to feel like taking him as its minister now that his wife has left him and has divorced him. He was a man who truly loved the Lord, but a man who neglected to examine this important feature of his life and to think whether he was giving enough time and enough attention to his family relations to have them continued as they should continue.

There are many aspects of life which we need to examine from time to time. Paul said Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith. We should examine ourselves as to all phases of our lives whether we are really carrying them on in a way that is honoring to the Lord and in a way that will continue permanently. We may have to -- we may lose