



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



May 2018

Volume 12, Number 10

What I remember about Mom could probably be summed up in descriptive words such as “drill sergeant” and, affectionately, “mean old lady”! She was a single parent with a determination to raise her sons. Mom didn’t have a graduate degree. In fact, I don’t even know if she finished high school. And yet where she fell short in academia, she had a greater level of education in common sense.

Lasting Values Were High on Mom’s Priority List

As a single parent with two boys, sometimes Mom worked two jobs to make ends meet. She would remind us she was working hard so we would not have to go to bed hungry at night and could have a roof over our heads. By watching her, we learned the importance of family. It was Mom’s dedication that instilled in me the importance of taking care of my family.

Sometimes Mom Was a Drill Sergeant!

Like many other young men our age, we wanted to hang out with our friends, learn the art of partying, and participate in other youthful ambitions. But somehow, this didn’t fit mom’s values. She wanted to know what type of friends we had and their parents. It was totally old fashioned and embarrassing when we couldn’t attend the events everyone else attended. You can imagine the teasing I sometimes endured on account of this! I sometimes thought my home life was exactly like being under the dictates of a mean drill sergeant!

From Mom’s Dedication I Learned the Value of Sacrifice

Sometimes Mom did without to meet our needs. Instead of buying much-needed clothes for herself, she put us first. At the beginning of every school year, we were ac-

tually excited to go to class and show off our new notebooks, pencils, and paper — just like all the other kids whose parents probably tripled Mom’s meager income. It was Mom’s way of encouraging us to stay in school! (It was vain, I know, but I still looked forward to it after our long summer breaks.)

Mom cared a great deal about our education, and somehow was never too tired to attend PTA meetings. She

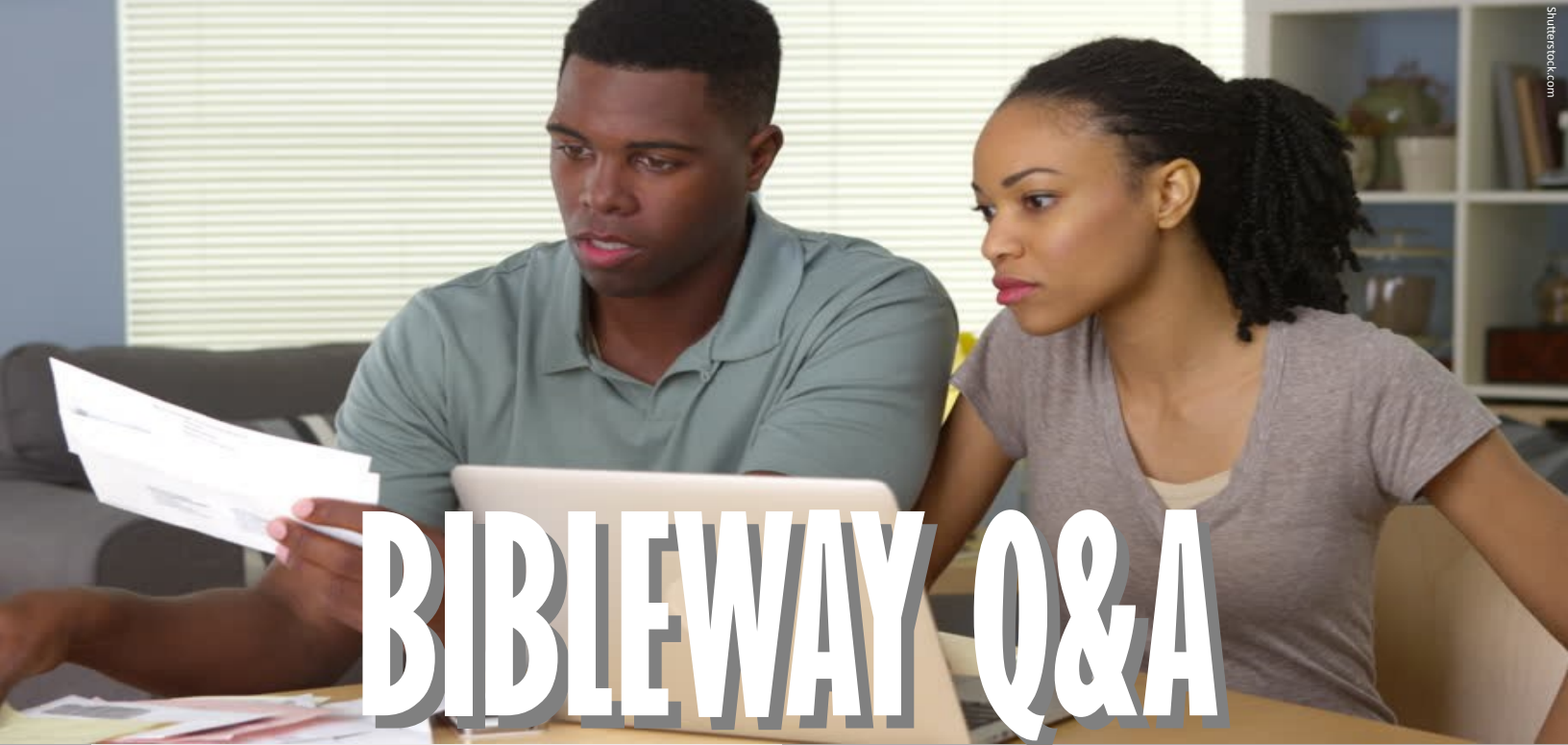


was interested in our getting good grades, and made certain our teachers were aware of her concern. I never understood the extent of her involvement until the night I served as a hall monitor during one of these meetings. Only a few other parents showed up to see how their children were doing, but Mom was there! You would think this poor woman would have been too tired to do much more than go to work every day, come home, and go to sleep. I’m sure she was often tired at these events, but her rest was secondary to seeing us succeed.

Mom Had One Other Passion

Mom was a Christian, and she loved the Lord. Her passion was contagious to the extent that it influences my brother and me to this day. Despite all of the other things going on in her life, Mom took her sons to church. Some parents sent their children; Mom brought us. I watched from the pews Sunday after Sunday as she sang in the choir. I listened as she gave praises to her Lord without complaint of the challenges she faced in life!

Often my brother and I sat in the pews next to older people instead of with the young people our age, who always seemed to be having more. . . . >>> [Keep Reading](#)



BIBLEWAY Q&A


Q – “Is it a good idea to have a professional work relationship with my spouse, or will this negatively impact our personal relationship?”

A – This is a good question. Spending a great deal of time with another person often brings out their best — and worst. Conflicts are inevitable. I remember an episode of *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, “My Part-Time Wife,” where Dick’s character (Rob Petrie) hired his wife (Laura) as an assistant writer for the Alan Brady Show. Initially, Rob felt he and Laura would not be happy as marriage partners and business partners.

When Laura was given an opportunity to prove herself, she excelled at the new job, much to Rob’s surprise. The sight of her success made him fearful she would want to leave her housekeeping and get her own job. This fear caused tension which escalated to the point where Laura quit.


Though the comedy sketch was fictional, “My Part-Time Wife” effectively captured the real feelings many married professionals have about working with their spouses. We will need to consult with historical and contemporary husband-wife professional teams to determine whether or not these feelings are justified.

The Bible shows us how marriage affected the work achievements of several couples. In King Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 16:28-33; 21:5-25), we find a formidable team which shared power over government affairs. They did together what neither of them could have done individually, even though their efforts were directed toward evil. King Ahasuerus and Esther collaborated on a significant piece of pro-Jewish legislation. Their collective efforts, along with Mordecai’s counsel, spared the Jews in Persian captivity from annihilation (Esther 8-9). Aquila and Priscilla were both tentmakers by trade. Not only did they work together, but they opened a house church to other believers and engaged in ministry together (Acts 18:2-3; 1 Corinthians 16:19). [>>> Keep Reading](#)



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