

tion. Very rarely should they both remain in the same Home.—Only if both of them are desperately needed! In almost all cases it would be much better to separate them & put them in separate Homes, if possible.

53. As I said, there are so many difficult things regarding this topic that we have to really be prayerful & Spirit-led! A lot has to do with the people themselves & what they want to do & what they decide, but a lot is also up to us as their shepherds & overseers in the Lord. Each situation, each couple, each individual needs to be dealt with individually, personally, prayerfully & carefully.

54. God help us all to lay aside the weights & sins that so easily beset us, so we can run the race that is set before us, & channel our time & energies, desires & strengths into winning the World to Jesus in these last desperate hours in which so much depends upon us & our faithfulness to the Lord & our preaching of the Gospel & winning all whom we can into His Eternal Kingdom!

55. P.S. Please bear in mind that the point of this talk, & our objective, is not to separate & break up all of our couples!—There's a difference between couples who are going through temporary "growing pains", minor problems & conflicts, & those that have reached a dead end & are absolutely hindered, ineffective & spiritually stagnated because of the marital rut they've gotten themselves into!—Some people are simply incompatible as mates!

56. Most couples who are having problems shouldn't react to this with, "Alright!—Let's break it up!" Their first reaction should be, "Let's get desperate with the Lord & see if we can work things out!"—Like the parable of the man who had sought fruit on the fig tree for three years, who felt like giving up & cutting it down.—But the dresser of the vineyard said, "Let it alone till I dig around it & dung it: And if it bear fruit, well. And if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down." (Luk. 13:6-9)—Give each other—and God—a chance! Then, if after an agreed time, you still can't "get it together", then perhaps try a temporary separation!—Amen? God bless & lead you & make you a blessing!

BACKSLIDERS, EXCOMS & IMMATURE LEADERSHIP!

Maria #87 DO 2340 8/87

—By Maria



(Notes on a recent discussion Mama had regarding some Family members who either left or were excommunicated:)

1. To understand why some things have happened, you've got to not only put yourself in the people's shoes who

had the problems, but also in their leadership's shoes as well. If these people who have backslidden & been excommunicated had been real good or nearly perfect people, they wouldn't have backslidden & they wouldn't have had such serious problems. Almost all of them have had some pretty big problems, but it's true that in many cases the poor leadership was in some ways too immature or too young, & just didn't quite know how to cope with it. So, sad to say, they frequently mishandled things.

2. I wouldn't say it was because the leadership's motives were wrong. Maybe in a few rare cases there was someone who was jealous or wanted the guy's wife or something, but normally it was just because they were young & immature & rather unsure of their own position. Basically, they just didn't know what to do with some of these problem people.—People that in many cases were actually much smarter & more talented than they were, but perhaps were real stinkers, real rascals, real self-righteous & critical as well.

3. So some of our poor little leaders, they just didn't know what to do with them! They should have done a lot of things, but in many cases, they just sort of did what was human.—They