

# (Clip) How To Balance Family and Ministry

by Zac Poonen

---

*This sermon emphasizes the importance of prioritizing Christ above all else, even family, in order to be a true disciple. The speaker shares his commitment to always putting Christ first in his life and marriage, highlighting the significance of having a spouse who shares the same priority. The message stresses the foundational role of Jesus Christ in one's life and ministry, emphasizing the need for personal walk with the Lord to effectively serve Him. Additionally, the sermon addresses the responsibility of maintaining a clear conscience, proper family life, and raising children in accordance with biblical principles for those in leadership roles within the church.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 10:37, Ephesians 5:23, 1 Timothy 3:4, 1 Peter 3:7, Proverbs 22:6, Colossians 3:23

**Topics:** "Prioritizing Christ", "Discipleship and Family"

---

## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of prioritizing Christ above all else, even family, in order to be a true disciple. The speaker shares his commitment to always putting Christ first in his life and marriage, highlighting the significance of having a spouse who shares the same priority. The message stresses the foundational role of Jesus Christ in one's life and ministry, emphasizing the need for personal walk with the Lord to effectively serve Him. Additionally, the sermon addresses the responsibility of maintaining a clear conscience, proper family life, and raising children in accordance with biblical principles for those in leadership roles within the church.

---

## Transcript

I never put my family or my wife before the Lord, because then I would not be a disciple. Always Christ was first in my life. I wanted to marry a girl who would put Christ first and me second.

I told her that before we got married. All our life put Christ first and me second, and I will never put you first in my life. And we are married now for 51 years.

I can say before God that I have never put her before Christ. But Christ and ministry are not the same. Christ is the foundation of my life.

So these three floors that you saw, underneath it all is Jesus Christ and the Father. As my faith is founded there, my life is founded there even today. But I realized that I cannot do anything for the Lord if I don't walk with the Lord myself.

So it is very important for me to keep my conscience clear, particularly after the time God met with me and filling me with the Holy Spirit. And then I realized that if a man does not know how to run his home

properly, he cannot build the church of God. Paul gave that as one of the conditions for elders.

If you cannot bring up a few children at home, how are you going to bring up so many people in a church? Today Christendom is filled I saw that with pastors whose children are wayward, Christian leaders whose children are not following the Lord and don't belong to his church. And I said, what is this? This is not what the Bible teaches. I mean, they may be preaching wonderful things and they may be teaching so many fantastic truths, great, great, amazing truths from Scripture, but look at their children.

Some of them look at their relationship with their wives. Today there are pastors who divorce their wives. So I felt I must live my life in such a way that I live in an understanding way with my wife and treat her as a fellow heir.

Her throne is not lower than mine, equal heir of the grace of life. It says in 1 Peter 3, 7. And then my children also must grow up like that. But at the same time, I felt God had called me to serve him.

So wherever there was an open door to serve him, I would take that opportunity and trust the Lord to take care of my children. Now I could not have done that if I did not have a wife who was 100 percent with me and to take care of the children when I was away. There was never an instance, you know, I've sometimes been away from home for five, six weeks in the ministry somewhere or sometimes many, many weekends.

But God has taken care of it. Children were sick. My wife never said, come back, the children are sick, or I can't handle this.

God gave me a wife who was willing to take care of that. And I say that if I have put my home first above as more important than my ministry, it's mainly because I had a wife who was 100 percent with me in seeing the importance of bringing up children properly. So I would say it was God who took care of my family and second my wife.

That's how the family got taken care of, even though I was traveling so much in the ministry.

---

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/EJCRwRBIXTg.mp4>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/clip-how-to-balance-family-and-ministry/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**