



NEGLECT – ACTIVE AND PASSIVE



Lost are many great commissions by such neglect. James Wyatt

One of my first counselees was a young girl who wanted help with her relationship with her missionary father. She was unable to handle and thus wanted him to put an end to his attempts of befriending her after two decades of neglect.

Today's passage speaks at length about staying single – before getting married, between engagement and marriage, and after the death of a spouse. Paul explains in detail the advantages of being single when it comes to serving God, but not without warning not to desert a betrothed beloved. Yes, it is easier to serve God when one is single, but wrong to desert one's spouse or family in the name of serving God. Maybe desert is a strong word and one would certainly not think of it that way (I had a counselee who contemplated breaking his engagement to go to Bible college). But, let's consider the phenomenon we refer to as 'body present, mind absent.' If there are any among us who are involved in ministry work in any form, and to whatever extent (even just volunteering at church), let us reconsider if we are so caught up with our ministry that we are physically present in the relationships at home, but are not emotionally available for our families.

Many a spouse or child of a pastor, missionary, pastorate committee member, or church volunteer has suffered from the emotional neglect of the parent involved in ministry. Be present for your families.

Father, let me never forget to perform my duties as a spouse, parent or child.