



Ministry and Vulnerability

**5 areas of where ministry can go wrong
and ways to keep it safe**

5 areas of vulnerability

1. Failure to attend to marriage and family

Christian Ministry carries with it high expectations and places significant pressures on marriage and family life. People in ministry need to give greater attention to both marriage and family than most others.

5 areas of vulnerability

2. Inadequate self care

Christian ministry is largely about serving and giving to others. Where there is a failure to take the 'Sabbath' principle seriously and take time to stop, reflect, rest and 'withdraw' regularly from ministry for refreshment a significant vulnerability is created.

5 areas of vulnerability

3. Lack of support and accountability

All people in leadership should have some kind of one to one mentoring or supervision relationship. This is in order to receive support, be held to account and to deal with life and ministry issues and to grow.

5 areas of vulnerability

4. Lack of integration of sexuality

Sexuality is a significant dimension of life and is often ignored in ministry. In some situations a lack of wholeness in sexual understanding (naivety), an obsession or addiction, or a lack of intimacy (emotional isolation) can create a vulnerability to sexual misconduct in ministry.

5 areas of vulnerability

5. Conflict Management Skills

Conflict is one of the most debilitating stresses in ministry. Ministers often lack healthy conflict processes and do not prepare either themselves or their congregations for conflict.

Wisdom: combining power and humility

Personal Life and Ministry Rhythms

Daily rhythms: Spiritual, personal and family life, sleep

Weekly rhythms: Ministry, rest, recreation, key life roles

Monthly rhythms: Planning, marriage

Seasonal rhythms: Ministry and workload, retreat days

Annual rhythms: holidays, family time

Sabbatical / long service rhythms: transitions in life and ministry



Wisdom: combining power and humility

Mentoring

Every leader needs a relationship in which there is support, **accountability** and a commitment to personal and leadership growth.

A mentor cannot be structurally connected to you he or she needs to be independent.

Pastoral, developmental, prayerful, resourcing, networking



Wisdom: combining power and humility

Professional growth and development

Assessing the areas of ministry in which to grow

Knowledge based development, skill based training and personal growth



Wisdom: combining power and humility

Spouse – Healthy mutual relationship of care, compatibility of vision and values, teamwork in family and homemaking, relational intimacy, romance and sexuality.

Healthy communication and conflict resolution / management – sharing at the feelings level.

Mutual commitment and support of each other's life work and ministry –
Co-operative planning

Accountability on boundaries in ministry and dealing with attractions, transference



Wisdom: combining power and humility

Friends external to ministry –

Everyone needs some people who love them for who they are without really caring or understanding their ministry.

Friends, family and prayer support group –

This group is supportive and offers love with understanding

Sharing at a feelings level

Being able to call on these for support

Peers – Fellow workers in ministry –

Common experience, Common vision

A sharing community.

