

other for awhile. Sometimes situations like that become almost unbearable & the poor people certainly could use a rest from it & from each other, a little distance between them so they can pray & get the mind of the Lord. So I would like to give people that if we can.

28. I think we should try to allow people a little breathing space, a little room, especially if they're stuck in a real rut & they're discouraging each other & dragging each other down, critical of each other etc. I think we almost owe it to them if they ask for it, to help them work out at least some kind of temporary situation of three months or so where they can at least get away from the situation.

29. Many times they don't even know what their own potential is or what they can do on their own. So if they want it, need it, & we can possibly arrange it, I think we should try. Of course, it presents hardships and difficulties for others, particularly when children are involved, but we're all supposed to be one Family & love one another, and if the situation desperately warrants a separation, then for that three-month period the Family will have to work it out and trust the Lord to have someone help them take care of their children when necessary.

30. If both parties really love the Lord & are desperate to find His Will, hopefully at the end of their time apart, if they're both sincere, the Lord is going to show them the same thing, whether or not they should get back together again. If they don't want to get back together, & want a permanent separation, then that's much more serious, & a lot of factors have to really be weighed out, especially what's best for the children & their care.

31. Now we don't want to have a whole rash of separations just because a lot of people would like to have a vacation from each other for awhile & because they think that maybe it will be easier for them if they're apart! We're talking about people that are really having problems, or that are really being hindered by each other. Usually, I think the Lord requires people to try to get the victory in their situation where they are, instead of escaping it.

WHEN ONE MATE WANTS TO SEPARATE & THE OTHER DOESN'T!

32. What do we do if one party wants to separate & the other doesn't? I think in a case like that, the one that really wants to, who thinks it's of the Lord, should probably win out. In other words, they can say, "Well, why don't we try it for just a few months & see how it will work?"

33. We're not just talking about the pleasure or the personal desires of a woman or of a man, we're talking about the Lord's Work now & the end of the World & a desperate need to do our best for Jesus, to win souls, to accomplish all we can for the Lord! This changes things slightly.—It's not just a little man-woman situation, it's just not that simple any more.

34. Of course, our leaders need to be very, very prayerful & Spirit-led when counselling people about such situations. Many times they'll have to get in there & observe for awhile & hear both sides of the story. But even then, after you hear both sides, some people are much more convincing & much better salesmen than others, more persuasive, & can present their side a lot more sincerely & believably than the other party can. But that doesn't necessarily mean that they're right, it may just mean that they're a better talker! So you're going to have to really pray & be Spirit-led when counselling people about such changes & separations.

35. And if there's a case where a couple feels that they're being pressured, that an injustice is being done to them, they should feel free to write personal letters, unread by anyone else, directly to their NO, so they can appeal & present their case.—And if the NOs need help or counsel in the situation, then they can write their CROs or write us! So the leadership needs to get in there & investigate & find out what the situation really is. It can't just be because some girl happens to read something like this, so she decides that her husband is a little weak & blah blah blah! You can't just go by anybody's whim, such as when someone falls in love with someone else & figures they'd rather have someone else than their mate, who they now suddenly feel is too weak to suit them, so they request a separation.