



# God's Property



## Remain Faithful

*"Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress? ...He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray." Proverbs 5:18-23*

One of the most important items in keeping a marriage together is honesty. If you're cheating on your spouse, that's dishonest; which will deteriorate the trust factor and make keeping the marriage together much more difficult. In the proverb above, Solomon shares with us that we should remain faithful to the one we have made a lifelong commitment. He then asks why we allow ourselves to be tempted and allured by another. Do we not know that we are only setting ourselves up for calamity?

What does this have to do with real estate investing? Plenty! I look at our real estate business as a similar commitment to the one we make in marriage. We marry someone we believe we will be able to spend the rest of our lives with through the good and the bad and enjoy a fruitful life. We go into business with a similar desire.

We jump into a business venture with the hopes and aspirations that we will make it big. Some of us may have even put a plan together and started working that plan. After some time elapses, things are either getting difficult or there is no visible

signs of progress. Pain begins to set in and you're wondering if you're headed in the right direction.

In your search for answers you come across another opportunity. The person sharing this with you tells you how others in the business are earning big checks on a monthly, weekly and even daily basis. Is this the answer you've been looking for? But how do you commit to something else if your time is already committed to your primary business. The person told you it only takes a few hours a week and you only need to get one other person per month to do the same thing and you'll hit pay dirt. Sounds easy enough.

You believe you can do it (all entrepreneurs believe they can do it ALL), so you fork out the \$550 processing fee. This is what you've been looking for and your excitement level shoots through the roof. You speak to everyone you can and get the usual feedback but then you finally get one person to purchase the revolutionary product and a few weeks later you get a check in the mail. You've made a few bucks for your time, or have you?

After a while, the excitement begins to fade and you no longer have the energy to continue pursuing this venture. You appreciate that it's not as easy as you were told and the person who got you interested in the product is also long gone from the business. Now you begin to realize that you have neglected your primary business of real estate and you've fallen farther behind than where you were a couple of months ago... before you jumped into the other

business venture.

We think that something else is the answer instead of what God has given to us to steward. Proverbs 19:14b states "...but a prudent wife is from the Lord." I believe He also gives us the desires of our heart; which are preludes to the businesses we set out to launch. Just as marriage takes effort, so do our businesses. We must be committed to them so we can enjoy the fruits of our labor.

In my example, you may have gotten the impression that I was speaking about an MLM as the diversionary business. Don't misunderstand, I have nothing against them, but too many pawn them off as a get-rich-quick business. Just like the business of real estate, you're going to have to be dedicated to it to really enjoy its fruits. For some of you, real estate may be the diversionary business. We have our share of jokers out there claiming how easy it is to get rich in real estate.

Whatever that primary desire of your heart is, be dedicated to it as it is the first love the Lord has placed in your heart and don't be enticed by the lure of easy money in anything else, even real estate. Sharon and I love this business so when we are introduced to any other type of opportunity, we know where our hearts are at and respectfully decline.

God Bless,

*Juan C Restrepo*