



## WOW: Word Of the Week

WYSIWYG

September 7, 2022

**WYSIWYG. Not a word but an acronym. An introduction to some thoughts about the importance of healthy relationships and a healthy marriage—ministry, missions, Christian living.”**

You have probably heard the saying, “Do what I say, not do what I do.” The phrase often pops up when someone has been caught in an inconsistency. Our actions do not always match our words. Lives are filled with disconnects. Our doctrine and duty, logic and living, creed and conduct, words and works do not always match.

We may hide our lifestyle from others down at the church house, but our family knows. Our family sees exactly who we are. Even more to the point, our spouse knows. We may be able to pretend our way through some parts of life, but the “rubber meets the road” at home. The great power of ministry, mission work, and the Christian life is WYSIWYG— “what you see is what you get.”

In my travels across Latin America, I speak often about how important it is for the church to have authentic and transparent leaders. I appreciate the kind words and welcoming hospitality I receive, but I am quick to tell people that if they really want to know me, they should talk to Jan. No person is 100% easy to get along with, 24/7, every hour of every day! Healthy relationships, healthy marriages, healthy homes keep us honest in our Christian life. WYSIWYG.

We must be authentic. Authentic is better than perfect. I made my share of parenting mistakes, but the one thing I tried to be, do, and constantly talk about was that our home would be characterized by openness, authenticity, and transparency. Success in the Christian life (and in all of life) depends on healthy accountable relationships. Are we who we claim to be? WYSIWYG.

Church leaders are called to be examples. Church members are called to be examples—in all of life. Some Christians have sought achievement and success but have paid the cost and lost their families. Jesus calls us to a higher standard with different values and different priorities. Scripture tells us that our first priority must be godly, biblical values lived out in healthy relationships within our families, our friendships, and the church.

WYSIWYG. I want others to see me as I really am. Is that possibility a goal for you? Or a threat to you?