
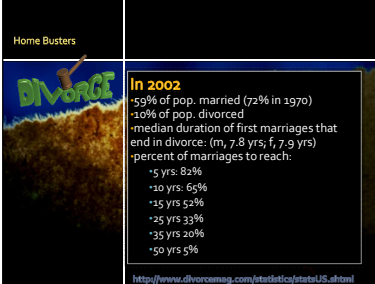
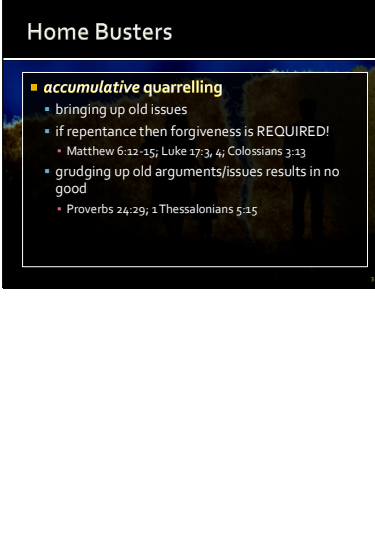
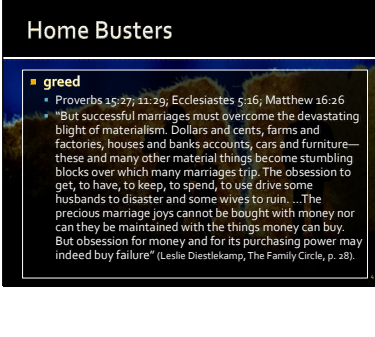
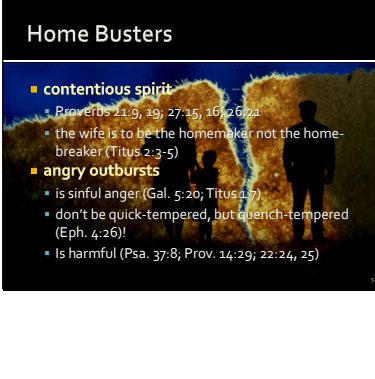


<p>Slide 1</p>		<p>1 Peter 4:8, "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." The most fervent quality in the most enduring relationships must be found in the fervor of genuine love. Without love, nothing can be lovely!</p>
<p>Slide 2</p>		<p>Divorces never happen from fervent love. These statistics are not necessarily indicative of high divorce rates although divorce certainly has a huge part in them. Yet remarriage and subsequent divorces inflate the numbers also. Further, late marriages in life and death also play a part in these numbers.</p>
<p>Slide 3</p>		<p>During the Iraq war, we were introduced to a kind of bomb that was called a "bunker buster." It was a bomb that could penetrate deep enough into the earth with a delayed detonation bringing cataclysmic damage to the underground network. There are some bunker-buster bombs for the home too. One is accumulative quarreling. I am sure all married couples quarrel from time to time. That is not what wrecks marriages. Rather, it is the constant bickering and the bringing up of old issues to rub the face of your spouse in that can create an upheaval in the marriage.</p> <p>"Do not say, 'I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work'" (Prov. 24:29).</p> <p>"See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all" (1 Thess. 5:15).</p>
<p>Slide 4</p>		<p>"He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live" (Prov. 15:27)</p> <p>"He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks evil" (Prov. 11:29)</p> <p>"And this also is a severe evil—Just exactly as he came, so shall he go. And what profit has he who has labored for the wind?" (Eccl. 5:16)</p> <p>"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26).</p>
<p>Slide 5</p>		<p>CONTENTIOUS SPIRIT – A contentious person is an argumentative individual. A contentious person seeks to rival another. Read passages (Prov. 21:9, 19; 27:15, 16, 26:21).</p> <p>Men can be guilty of this too but women are also prone to this sin and are called out by scripture here. The woman should take care to guard against becoming contentious in the family. She should mind her place and seek to present before her family a person who excels in a meek and quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3:1-4). Some women want to spend more than their husbands can make and may strain the relationships</p>

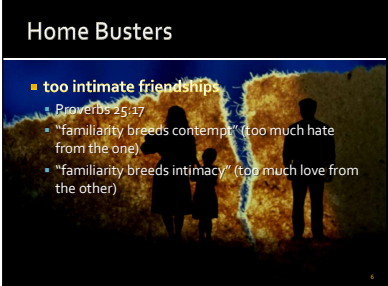
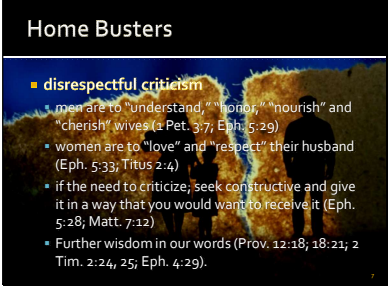
in the house by being too materialistic. Others may wear their emotions on their sleeves and become overly sensitive to areas where they ought not. Where men err at times is being too insensitive, not warm, and impatient; women can also err by failing to show reverence and love.



God has called on the woman to be the homemaker (Titus 2:3-5). Shouldn't the man recognize that she makes the house a home? This is a tremendous task on her part when it is taken seriously. The first priority, the first duty of any wife should be the home front. All other responsibilities should lie behind her domestic goals and concerns and where other ambitions should be lessened or exterminated if this work suffers. Likewise, and unbeknown to our modern society, women will often find their greatest achievements and greatest sources of happiness are those ambitions that are tied to the home. When priority and success are not anchored in this work, many times regret and depression will follow.


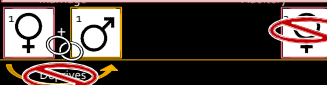
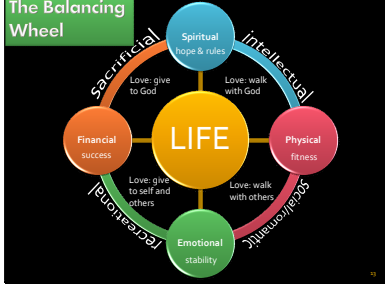
ANGRY OUTBURSTS – Eph. 4:26. The duration of anger is to be short-lived and quickly disseminated. Rather than being quick-tempered, practice to become quench-tempered...quench the fires of anger before the sun goes down.

An angry outburst is a work of the flesh. It flings the person into a blaze of violent words and deeds. It is sinful and damaging. It declares a lack of self-discipline. It is hurtful. But it is not only hurtful to the one to whom the anger is directed, but I have to also think that God condemns it because it is hurtful to an angry person also (see Psa. 37:8; Prov. 14:29; 22:24, 25). In a family where one has fits of rage, he is alienating himself from those he loves most and those who love him most. No one likes to draw near to a person who quickly verbally hurts them.

Since being quick-tempered is something that elders are called not to have, it suggests that uncontrolled anger is damaging not only to one and his reputation but also to the love due to his spouse and the raising of his children. Being quick-tempered is not a spirit that is conducive to being a family man. Blaming our quick anger (viz., "you make me angry") on your spouse only paints us as pathetic. It suggests deep insecurity and it shows that we cannot rightly judge situations that call for patience and kindness. Further, how can the quick-tempered person love his enemies (Lk. 6:27-37)? He fails the example of and precepts of Christ. What is the solution? Would I like to be treated this way (Matt. 7:12)? Would I like my son or daughter to act like this or be treated like I am treating my spouse? Can we be guilty of provoking our children to wrath by the way we treat our husband/wife (Eph. 6:4)? Every time you become angry and say and do things that shouldn't have been said or done, drive a nail into a piece of wood. In time, look at all the nails which represent a failure with anger and to a degree, irreparable damage. Even pulling the

		<p>nails out we find the punctured holes remain. How do these represent the piercing words that we have said that puncture the hearts of those we love? Col 3:19, "Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them."</p>
<p>Slide 6</p>		<p>TOO INTIMATE FRIENDSHIPS – [CLICK X3]</p> <p>This can create all kinds of problems in the home. How many times do we read or hear about scandals which affect churches, businesses, schools, and always families?</p> <p>We should judge the kind of friends we want. But we should also judge righteously about the amount of time spent on friendship engagements. 1 Corinthians 15:33 speaks of the quality of friendships and Proverbs 25:17 speaks of the amount of time we spend with friends. Guys if your male friends enjoy spending more time with your wife than with you, get alarmed! Women, if your female friends seem more interested in the cares and concerns about your husband, get alarmed!</p> <p>A frank and concerned talk with your spouse would not be out of order in such circumstances. Unfruitful works of darkness need to be exposed (Eph. 5:11). We should all seek to be what is called a "wise rebuker" and likewise have an "obedient ear" (see Prov. 25:12). It should be a warning that is conveyed as an extension of love and concern and not something that we delight in heaping up shame on another (see 1 Cor. 4:14).</p> <p>"It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise Than for a man to hear the song of fools" (Eccl. 7:5).</p>
<p>Slide 7</p>		<p>Men are to "understand," "honor," "nourish" and "cherish" wives (1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:29). Being <i>cold</i>, <i>bitter</i>, and <i>indifferent</i> toward them dishonors and cuts against their feminine and caring nature. Jesus is not that way to the church or even those He desires to save (Matt. 11:28-30). Such characteristics alienate us from others.</p> <p>Wives are to learn to "love" and "respect" their husbands (Eph. 5:33; Titus 2:4). Speaking down to a husband cuts against his masculinity. Speak so as to <i>help</i> and <i>save</i> him, never to belittle him.</p> <p>If the need to criticize exists, seek to do it constructively and give it in a way that you would want to receive it (Eph. 5:28; Matt. 7:12)</p> <p>Further wisdom in our words and temper is expressed in these verses below:</p> <p>"There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise <i>promotes</i> health" (Prov. 12:18).</p>

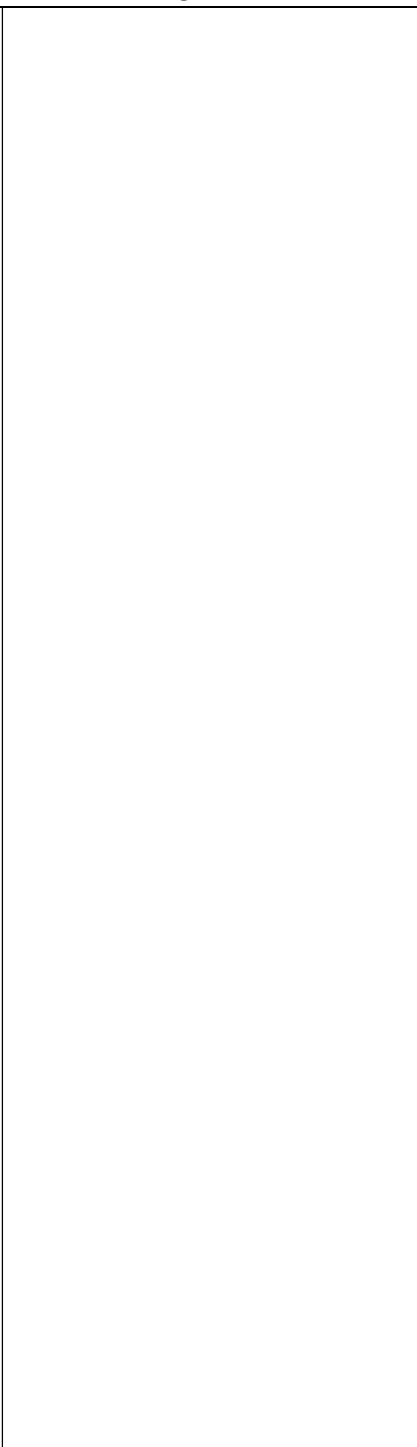
		<p>“Death and life <i>are</i> in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit. <i>He who</i> finds a wife finds a good <i>thing</i>, And obtains favor from the LORD” (Prov. 18:21, 22).</p> <p>“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and <i>that</i> they may come to their senses <i>and escape</i> the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to <i>do his will</i>” (2 Tim. 2:24-26).</p> <p>“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (Eph. 4:29).</p> <p>“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:31, 32).</p>
<p>Slide 8</p>	<p>Home Busters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ not spending enough time together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • husbands and wives do not spend enough time alone (1 Cor. 7:1-5) 	<p>“We are surrounded by ‘time-saving’ devices for the home, the factory, the farm, yet we seem to have less and less time to devote to people—call it ‘people time,’ if you will!” (Leslie Diestelkamp, <i>The Family Circle</i>, p. 23).</p>
<p>Slide 9</p>	<p>God’s View</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Male and female—God’s design (Gen. 1:27) ■ One to one—God’s original and binding intent (Gen. 2:24; 1 Cor. 7:2; Song. 4:12, locked garden) ■ Together time—God’s gift for both (1 Cor. 7:3, 4; Song. 4:10, 11, 16) ■ Regular together time—God’s wisdom (1 Cor. 7:5, 6; Prov. 5:19) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Deprive” – (cheat, defraud, rob, see Mk. 10:19; 1 Cor. 6:8; “kept back by fraud,” Jas. 5:4) • “Consent” – (agreement) • “time” (a defined limited period of time) • “Concession” (from a compound of “with” + “to know” = with knowledge and understanding) 	
<p>Slide 10</p>	<p>Learn To Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LOVE is something that is learned (Titus 2:4; Eph. 5:28) ■ LOVE is something done, not said <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although we should say “I love you,” saying it is not always the same as doing (1 Jn. 3:18) • Love is an <i>emotion in action</i> (Jn. 14:21-24) • Love does not seek its own (1 Cor. 13:5; Jn. 14:28) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would a husband seek to please his wife (1 Cor. 7:33)? • Why would a wife seek to please her husband (1 Cor. 7:34)? 	

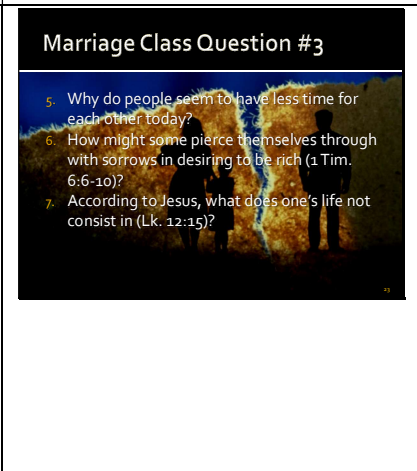
<p>Slide 11</p>	<p>What Then Would Love Do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does love deprive? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare 1 John 3:17 Who is happy when a husband and wife loses the romance which the Bible describes? Who is innocent? No One! 	
<p>Slide 12</p>	<p>What Then Would Love Do?</p> <p>"Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" (1 Cor. 7:5)</p> 	
<p>Slide 13</p>	<p>The Balancing Wheel</p> 	<p>Life is composed of multiple inlets and outlets where a balance has to be striven for. You are not designed to run on a one-spoke wheel, but life consists of several things. We were not created as a tree where we passively grow in the place where we were planted and simply stay there until we grow old and die. We grow as we go.</p> <p>When one of these components suffers, the whole wheel is imbalanced and does not roll smoothly. In the <i>Christmas Carol</i>, Ebenezer Scrooge ran on a one-spoke wheel—<i>financial</i>. What was lacking in the spiritual, physical, and emotional areas made his world warped and miserable. We could say the same thing about his biblical parallel in the rich man that Jesus spoke of in Luke 16:19ff.</p> <p>I chose four mainstays where several other things can fall into place. [CLICK] We could reduce it to two topics: our life directed toward God and our life directed toward self and others. [CLICK] Other qualities fall within these sections: sacrificial, intellectual, recreational, social, and romantic qualities are seemingly defined within these areas.</p> <p><i>SPIRITUAL</i> – I placed spiritual on top because I believe it is the most important from which all other things are properly defined and ordered. Having a connection with God and His message is something that impacts the other three quadrants very forcefully. It provides a person with hope and rules. It guides and governs the other three.</p> <p>This does not suggest that those who are spiritual cannot neglect the other three. We are to read and understand the scriptures and if we are not reading and understanding them, then we will not apply them in these other areas. Likewise, we must obey and if we are not understanding, then we will likely not be obeying and hence the wheel will be broken.</p>

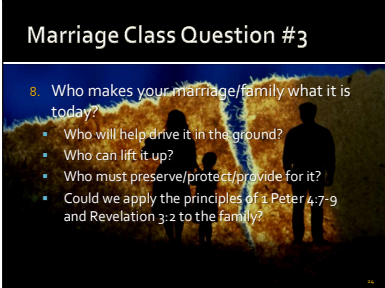
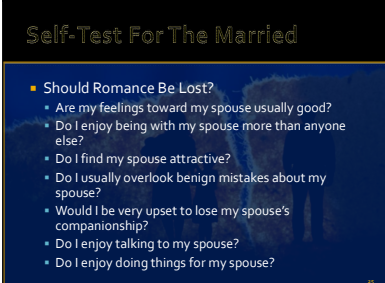
		<p>Think of how our spiritual standing and reverence with God affects and addresses the others areas of life.</p>
<p>Slide 14</p>		<p><i>Physical.</i> Acts 17:26-28; even in pursuing knowledge Eccl. 12:12; in recognizing the limits of exercise, 1 Tim. 4:8; in using the body for the Lord, 1 Cor. 6:13-20, adjoining the spiritual with the physical. Harlotry is adjoining the physical without the spiritual, viz. the approval of God. See 1 Cor. 7:4; she is to care about how to please her husband (7:34)</p>
<p>Slide 15</p>		<p><i>Emotional</i> (2 Tim. 1:7; Prov. 14:30; Song. 8:6, 7; Prov. 23:7).</p>
<p>Slide 16</p>		<p><i>Financial</i> (Eccl. 9:10; 2 Thess. 3:7-12; 1 Tim. 6:10; Lk. 6:32-35; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; Eph. 4:28; 2 Cor. 12:15, though not financial is sacrificial, Heb. 6:10 both of financial and physically being spent for saints)</p>
<p>Slide 17</p>		<p>When you are driving, you do not want things outside the wheel to get inside the wheel—a flat wheel is a result. Adultery is outside God’s social and romantic walk. It opposes <i>trust</i> and the sacrificial quality that man ought to possess. It violently corrupts the sacred romantic qualities we are to govern. Covenant-breakers are <i>untrustworthy</i> people and predators that will ruin their own lives in the process (Prov. 6:24-26; 7:18-27)</p> <p>Cowardice is likewise outside the wheel which breaks the life within the wheel. A coward’s life is in bondage to fear. It opposes sacrifice and makes one socially inept (Rev. 21:8).</p> <p>Pride is outside the wheel and opposes the emotional and spiritual spokes in the wheel. A man’s learning may cause him to think more of himself than he ought to think (1 Cor. 8:1, 2; Rom. 12:3). The proud man cannot walk with God and is emotionally out of balance. In his intellectual pursuit, he will likely blow up his social life in the process.</p>

		<p>Being stingy is also outside the wheel and destroys sacrificial and emotional spokes in life. He cannot reach a higher plane because he is stuck in himself. It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35; Heb. 13:16). The one who gives is also the one who often receives back gifts that money cannot buy (Prov. 11:24, 25; 21:13; 28:27; Eccl. 5:13)</p> <p>Gossip and speaking deceit are outside the wheel and bring trouble to one's life (1 Pet. 3:8-11). He wrecks his social and spiritual life in doing so.</p> <p>We are to take pleasure in lawful things (ex. Deut. 24:5). But the pleasure seeker has at his highest attainment the satisfaction of the senses and makes pleasure his god (Pr. 21:17; 2 Tim. 3:4). All these things and the like seek to break your wheel and in doing such, will break your "will" to do the pleasure of the Lord.</p>
<p>Slide 18</p>		<p>"We are surrounded by 'time-saving' devices for the home, the factory, the farm, yet we seem to have less and less time to devote to people—call it 'people time,' if you will!" (Leslie Diestelkamp, <i>The Family Circle</i>, p. 23).</p> <p>People should soberly analyze how they are spending their time. Is there time spent on poisonous relationships? By that I mean, spending time with a person who has nothing better to do with his time than vent and complaining about things. Why would you waste your time on that? Time can be better spent elsewhere. Facebook and social media sites can drain you of your time. Is it worth it? Redundant things like checking your email 20 times a day. Checking your bank statement every day. Are there things in your life that are distracting which could be removed and replaced with better quality? Do you have to get the best possible bargain buying micro-purchases? Are there things the kids can do that you do not have to do like house chores that can free up your time and help them learn duty and accountability?</p>
<p>Slide 19</p>		

<p>Slide 20</p>	<p>Notable Quote (James Dobson, <i>The New Hide Or Seek</i>, p. 82)</p> <p>“It is obvious that many families live on a kind of last minute emergency schedule, making it impossible to meet the demands of their own overcommitments. Why do they do it? The women I surveyed admitted their dislike for the pace they kept, yet it has become a monster that defies containment. Faster and faster they run, jamming more and more activities into their hectic days. Even their recreation is marked by this breakneck pace. There was a time when a man didn't fret if he missed a stagecoach. He'd just catch it next month. Now someone who misses a section of a revolving door is thrown into despair!”</p>	<p>James Dobson wrote an excellent book called “Hide Or Seek” where he warns parents against destructive features of life that wreck or tear down the self-confidence of children as they develop. He also warns against the time epidemic that is so overwhelming for so many families in America.</p>
<p>Slide 21</p>	<p>Notable Quote (James Dobson, <i>The New Hide Or Seek</i>, p. 83)</p> <p>“Children just don't fit into a “to do” list very well. It takes time to be an effective parent when children are small. It takes time to introduce them to good books. It takes time to fly kites and play ball and put together jigsaw puzzles. It takes time to listen, once more, to the skinned-knee episode and talk about the bird with the broken wing. These building blocks of esteem, held together with the mortar of love, seldom materialize amidst busy timetables. Instead, crowded lives produce fatigue, fatigue produces irritability, irritability produces indifference. Indifference can be interpreted by the child as a lack of love and respect. Slow down, parents! Your children will be gone so quickly, and you will have nothing but blurred memories of those years when they needed you.”</p>	<p>We could also say that these same traits of fatigue, irritability, and indifference can creep into the relationship of the husband and wife if they are not good stewards of their time and if they are unwilling to simplify their lives by crucifying other activities that draw away time from the family. I need to be able to assess the situation of my family and then have the ability to say “no” to some functions that are really not that necessary and bring very little value or are really inconsequential to my family's welfare. It may be a social function, a recreational function, or even a business function that needs to be turned down if my family is lacking in time spent together.</p>
<p>Slide 22</p>	<p>Marriage Class Question #3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If we expect God to forgive us, what MUST we be willing to do? Does this apply to your spouse? 2. What warning should be given regarding friendships? 3. What does it mean and what is involved in redeeming the time (Eph. 5:15, 16)? 4. How might this apply to the family unit? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We must be willing to forgive others (Matt. 6:14, 15). This applies to the spouse also. 2. Friendships, while they are a blessing, can also become a curse if we are not circumspect. Spending too much time with another person can spawn various feelings in our family from hatred or intimacy. 3. “Redeeming the time” means recovering time from waste and to improve it for great and important purposes (Albert Barnes, Barnes Notes). “Buying up those moments which others seem to throw away; steadily improving every present moment, that ye may, in some measure, regain the time ye have lost” (Adam Clarke). <p>Man redeems his time when he utilizes it when he works it for good. 1) This would include spending time to gain knowledge and understanding the will of the Lord (Eph. 5:17; Ps. 90:12). 2) It would also include his <i>secular</i> working time to learn knowledge to provide for his family. 3) It would also include time used in bettering his heart. Time spent in prayer would redeem the time. 4) Time spent doing good to others would redeem the time (Col. 4:5). Time spent in family togetherness would also be time well-used. Recreation time to rest can also redeem the time as it helps to refresh us so that we can better focus and work (see Mk. 6:31).</p> <p>Wasting time would include those who waste their time chasing false or harmful desires, reading garbage material, wasting it merely on themselves, etc. (I am not saying that you should not have any time for yourself.) People should also stop and ask from time to time about the things they spend their time on. Many things may not be a total waste of time, but are inconsequential in the big picture of life. We need to take care that we are not</p>

		<p>spinning our wheels or pressing activities into our chaotic life that have no or very little value in life. I could work out with weights three hours a day but what would that benefit me unless I have a job that requires tremendous physical strength? Why not ask and then really answer the question that asks, "How are these activities going to benefit my family and our relationship with one another and God?"</p> <p>4. I need to buy back or make time for the family. Using time for family togetherness with God is certainly redeeming the time in a very real sense (see Deut. 11:18-21; Prov. 3:1-6; 4:10-13). Rather than having chaotic suppers, why not plan for changes in my lifestyle that transform supper into a family event of togetherness? Why not sacrifice something else for better time quality? It doesn't always have to be the job, it could also be an after-school activity that is standing in the way of having a real family night! Why not also spend the time for conversations on things that matter? Instead of talking and worrying about the political landscape of our nation, governmental problems, and scandals and endlessly watching the news or reading the newspapers or internet channels; rather, spend time on things you can change. Talk with your spouse about what he or she likes to talk about. Why not spend time talking to the children about their interests? Why not have Biblical discussions rather than discussions about the weather or some sorry senator? Why not shut the news off and read to the children or play some games with them? Why not go on walks together, take trips together, etc? Why not get them all involved in a family chore rather than doing it all yourself just because you can do it faster? Why not talk about God as you travel rather than always listen to the radio? Why not have times when the family sings and prays together?</p> <p>Other folks can invade your family circle who will care about what interests your wife, husband, and children. Don't you think of all people, we should care about what is going on in our own family members' minds.</p>
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<p>Slide 23</p>	<p>Marriage Class Question #3</p>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Why do people seem to have less time for each other today? 6. How might some pierce themselves through with sorrows in desiring to be rich (1 Tim. 6:6-10)? 7. According to Jesus, what does one's life not consist in (Lk. 12:15)? 	<p>5. Many overextend themselves regarding things. They don't have time to stop and catch their breath, let alone smell a rose because they are always in a hurry to do something, to see something, to go somewhere, but what they are in a hurry to do, to see, or go has a very small benefit or enrichment on life.</p> <p>It seems like a bitter paradox that to afford the new time-saving technological toy, we need to work more hours every week to afford it. One has to wonder if technology is such a good friend after all if it demands excessive cost on time and money.</p> <p>6. They are in pursuit of the wind. What they deem as important to spend their time and resources on now ends up being forgotten</p>
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<p>Slide 24</p>	 <p>Marriage Class Question #3</p> <p>8. Who makes your marriage/family what it is today?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who will help drive it in the ground? ▪ Who can lift it up? ▪ Who must preserve/protect/provide for it? ▪ Could we apply the principles of 1 Peter 4:7-9 and Revelation 3:2 to the family? 	<p>[CLICK thru] Are there things that are of value but are weak and ready to die in your marriage or family? Is your relationship with your spouse, stronger today or weaker than when you first got married? What is the direction your family is headed? Is your relationship with your children sound?</p>
<p>Slide 25</p>	 <p>Self-Test For The Married</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should Romance Be Lost? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are my feelings toward my spouse usually good? ▪ Do I enjoy being with my spouse more than anyone else? ▪ Do I find my spouse attractive? ▪ Do I usually overlook benign mistakes about my spouse? ▪ Would I be very upset to lose my spouse's companionship? ▪ Do I enjoy talking to my spouse? ▪ Do I enjoy doing things for my spouse? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are my feelings toward my spouse usually good? • Do I enjoy being with my spouse more than anyone else? • Do I find my spouse attractive? • Do I usually overlook benign mistakes about my spouse? • Would I be very upset to lose my spouse's companionship? • Do I enjoy talking to my spouse? • Do I enjoy doing things for my spouse?