

Being Family vs. Doing Family

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Why Pursue a Full Life Instead of Over-Busyness?

- Jesus _____ through life and regularly withdrew to be alone with his Father or with just his disciples (Mk. 6:31). We are called to be Christlike.
- Over business is _____ to the world's standards. We are commanded to seek God first and not worry about tomorrow (Matt. 6:31-34). This includes taking time to meditate on scripture (Ps. 1) and waiting on God (Ps.27:14). Not doing this is missing the mark.
- The best opportunities in life are _____ if we are over-busy (Luke 10:38-42). *"Beware the barrenness of a busy life... ..The unexamined life is not worth living" -Socrates*
- Rightly discipling our kids and cultivating wholehearted love for God is the primary objective of parents (Mal. 2:15) and won't be accomplished in an over-busy home. It's why we homeschool. Don't miss the _____.

"Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life." -Dallas Willard

Slowing down or doing less might not help anything; we must examine " _____ " we are over-busy. The most common culprits: 1) Wrong Priorities, 2) Fear or Guilt Driven, 3) Disorder and Laziness. Today we will address Wrong Priorities.

God gave us 24hrs. and it is enough. We all make time for what's important to us. Doing what's important to God leads to success. Using the _____ as our guide, we must distinguish between what is: Essential, Important and Optional in life. *(Remember: "Old MacDonald had a farm, E I E I O.." Stands for: Essential, Important, Optional)*

Structure your days, such that:

- All essential items happen (e.g. schedule them).
- Whatever time is left, see what important things can fit in.
- On occasion, and when appropriate, include an optional item.

Some Biblical Essentials in the home:

LOVING GOD: Daily Personal Devotions; Family Devotions; Prayer; Discipleship time (getting to the heart); Debrief (processing & reflecting on life); Family worship; Sabbath

Important:

Education; Exercise; Intentional Socializing;

Optional:

Entertainment; Organized Sports; Kids Club/Youth Group and other church programs; Music lessons;

REMINDERS: Don't sacrifice any biblical essentials on the _____ of worldly philosophies, fear of man, or pride. Don't sacrifice the important for the urgent. Remember, every time you say "yes" to something, you simultaneously say "no" to everything else. Learn to say " _____ " to the abundance of good things, so that you CAN say "Yes" to the few essential things.

Being a biblical family and guarding against **doing** too many unnecessary things will lead to a faithful, purposeful, peaceful and _____ family that you can delight in and rest with; both in time and eternity. If you are convicted of anything, start with repenting to God and embrace the gospel (eg. no condemnation or fear). Then take strong actions based on faith in God's Word.

Resources can help. For example, the Malachi Man video series (www.MalachiMan.com) forces (in a positive way) fathers and sons to prioritize heart-level discipleship on essential topics. The interactive and engaging format is ideal for over-busy fathers as it facilitates key discussions without any prep time (used at home or in a group).

Note: Video series is **HALF PRICE** this AHEA weekend at our booth.

"...turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers..." - Malachi 4:6