



G.K. Chesterton, English journalist,
1874-1936

- ◆ “Christianity has not been tried and found wanting, its been found difficult and therefore rarely tried.”
- ◆ Setting priorities and sticking to them in a balanced way is our greatest challenge.

Setting Priorities and Living the Balanced Life

Romans 13:7 *“Render unto all their dues and tribute to whom tribute is due, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”*



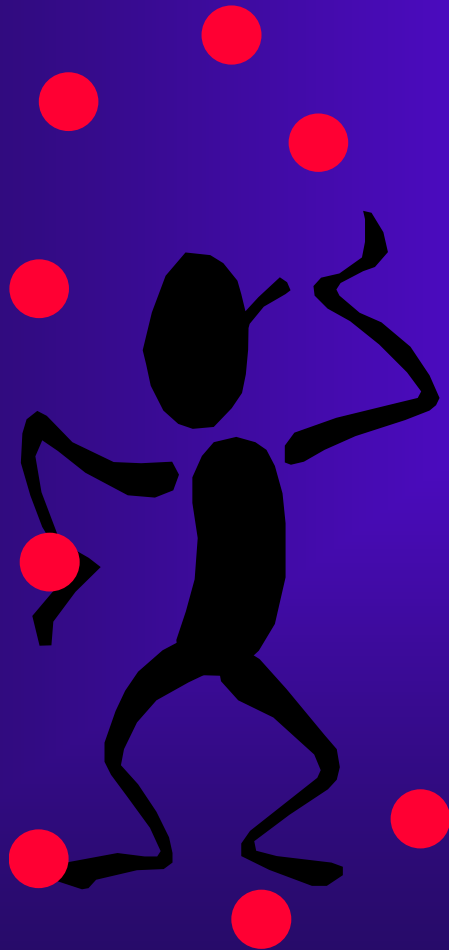
Setting Priorities



- ◆ All of us are “Christian jugglers”
- ◆ *Must deal with conflicting priorities that can be overwhelming.*

Setting Priorities

- ◆ If we do not give all them adequate attention . . .
- ◆ Things get neglected and sometimes irreparable damage is done.





God



“Our life is the sum total of our commitments.”

The Key is to have a *spiritual* center with God and His word as the outer circle so that everything else fits within His will.



Setting Priorities

- ◆ Doesn't necessarily mean you spend *proportionally* more time on one than other.....
- ◆ May sleep 8 hours and eat 1 hour, but sleeping is not 8 times more important!
- ◆ May spend 15 mins a day praying may be the most important!



SETTING PRIORITIES

I. God and the Kingdom Matt 6:33

A. The Word Jn 6:35, Lk 4:4,

B. Prayer I Thess 5: 17

C. Emotional and Physical Health I Tim
4:8

“What we are at birth is God’s gift to us – what we make of ourselves throughout life (the kind of person we become) – is our gift back to God.”



REMEMBER THE 5 P'S

- ◆ The Best **PERSON** before God
- ◆ The Best **PARTNER**
- ◆ The Best **PARENT**
- ◆ The Best **PROVIDER**
(PROFESSIONAL)
- ◆ The Best **PUBLIC SERVANT.**

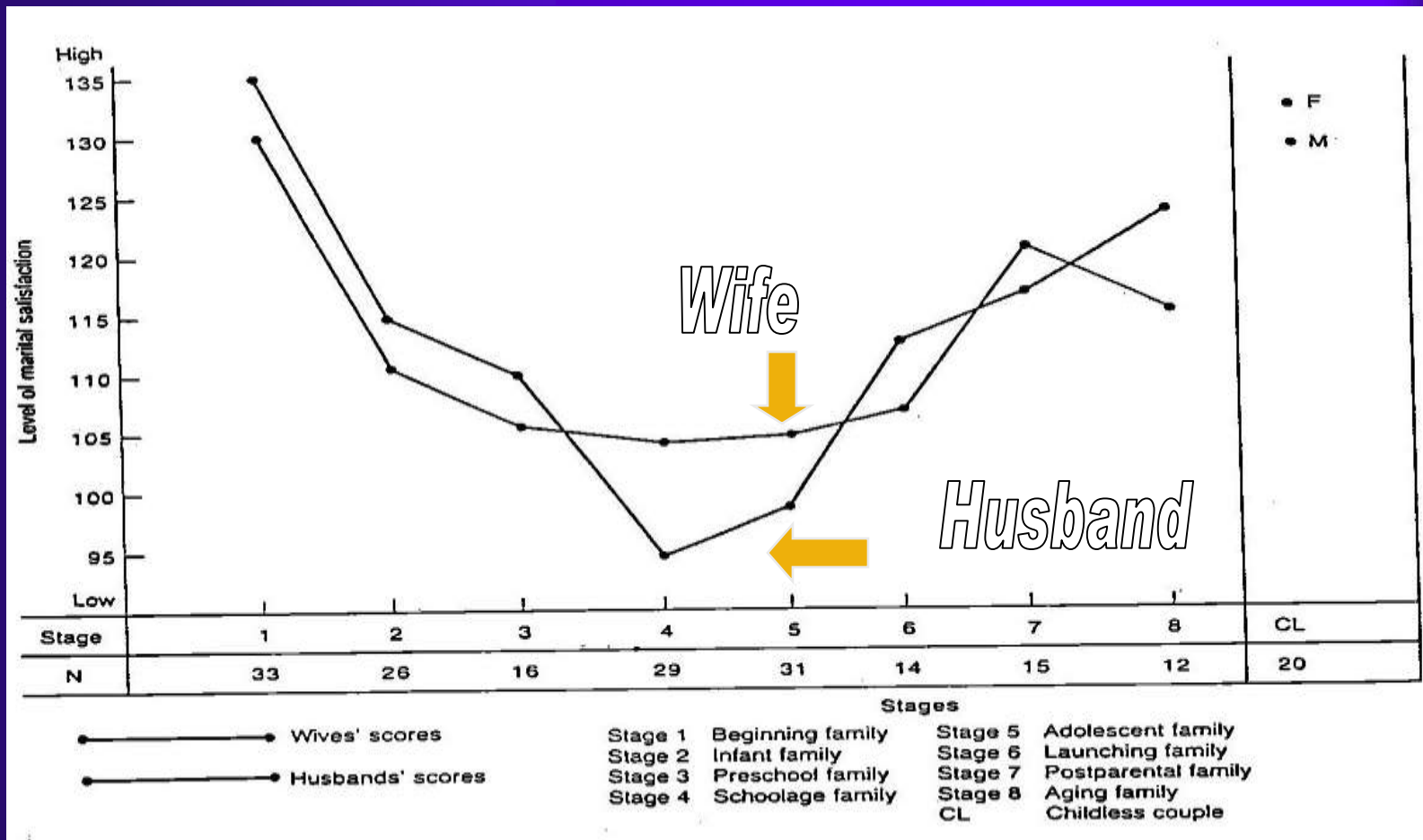


Setting Priorities: After God is

II. Time with Spouse

- A. Real danger that when children come you fail to grow together, and then grow apart**
- B. Beware of the trap ladies of “being too much mother and not enough wife.”**

The "U-Shaped Curve" of Marital Happiness





After God and Spouse is . . .

- ◆ Time with the Children....
 - Prov 29:15 “A child left to himself shall grow up to bring shame to his mother.”
 - Children are our Basic Responsibility while they are at home. Titus 2:4-5



After God, spouse, and Children..

◆ Time for Vocation –

- Prov 22:29 – “He that is diligent in his business shall stand among kings and not ordinary men.”
- Col 3:23 – “Work heartily as unto the Lord.”
- Ecc 9: 10 – “Whatever you put your hand to do do so with all your might.”
- If you are mediocre, incompetent, not respected at work why would anyone listen to what you have to say about religion?



After God, Spouse, Children, Vocation . . .

◆ Ministry to Others . .

- Matt 25:40 “In as much as you have done it unto me the least of my disciples....”
- Gal 6:10 “Do good unto all men, especially the household of faith.”
- Where ever we go it should be a priority to teach others . Mk 16:16



The Challenge: Remain balanced.

- ◆ Preachers can try to save others they neglect their own. Mistake!
- ◆ Men can get so focused on work that they neglect their families. Mistake!
- ◆ Must constantly readjust and get things in balance . . . Phil 4:5



The Challenge: Remain Balanced

- ◆ A life not centered on God is filled with disharmony, but when God is at the center we produce beautiful harmonious music.



A Challenge!

- ◆ What are your admonitions to others as you part?
 - Take it easy?
 - Don't work too hard?
- ◆ Mickey Crabtree's: Stay out of trouble!
- ◆ Better: *“Keep your priorities straight.”*



Timely advice from Nicholas Sparks, author of *The Notebook*

- ◆ **It's obvious that you make your marriage a priority.**

NS: Yes, I personally think it's one of the best lessons that you can teach your children is to keep your spouse happy in a marriage and to make time for them individually. My wife and I go out to lunch three times a week. We go on a date once every other week. We take weekend trips --- just the two of us --- two or three times a year. We will also take a five-day vacation --- just the two of us --- once a year. My wife doesn't want to leave any more than that --- she's still a committed mom. But our children see us all the time --- hold hands, we exercise together. We get up earlier in the morning so we can have some time together. We make it a priority throughout the days and weeks and months.