

Balancing Family and Community
Xenos Summer Institute
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It matters if you are involved in Christian Community

For your own spiritual well-being.

(Community facilitates your understanding of your identity in Christ)

- At conversion, experience a change in relationship with God and other Christians

For just as we have many members in one body, and all the members do have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” Romans 12:4&5

- Increase capacity to understand God's love as you give his love away

For your children's spiritual well being.

(Community provides a rich environment to raise your children)

- Battles children's self-centeredness
- Opportunity to model self-giving lifestyle

For your non-Christian friend's spiritual well-being

(Community is key to communicating God's love to our world)

- John 13 & 17

- Music and lyrics

“As Christians we must not minimize the need to give honest answers to honest questions. We should have an intellectual apologetic (a defense of our faith)... Yet, without true Christians loving one another, Christ says the world cannot be expected to listen, *even when we give proper answers*. Let us be careful indeed...to give honest answers. For years the ...church has done this very poorly...But after we have done our best to communicate (these answers), still we must never forget that the final apologetic which Jesus gives is the observable love of true Christians for true Christians.” Gary Delashmuth, *Loving God’s Way*, (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1996), pg. 18 citing Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Church at the End of the 20th Century* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1972), pp. 139-140.

Where will I find the time?

- Your time is not your own
- God has good works for you to accomplish

Eph. 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

- God will provide the time you need to accomplish good works
- Walking in these good works will result in a life worth living

How to balance family and community

1. Where are you now?

- What is your tendency?
- Ask a friend and/or do a time accountability

2. First things first

The Time Management Matrix

| Urgent | Not Urgent |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Important: | |
| Not Important | |

This matrix was taken from Stephen Covey, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families*

3. Schedule, schedule, schedule.

- Why schedule?
 - The important things get done.
 - Enables you to say no.
 - Frees you from worrying.
 - Examples of things that are scheduled in our household:
 - Qualification:

4. Odds and Ends

- Include kids whenever possible

- Bundle a number of activities at one time.

Conclusion:

- Satan will try to sabotage your efforts
- Will require living by faith