

Serving Christ through Life's Stages & Shifting Priorities

Xenos Summer Institute, 2015, Mary Barnum

What is the situation in your ministry?

Basis for a healthy spiritual lifestyle – 3 priorities (text: Colossians)

Gospel-Rooted: Col. 1:3-6

Mission-Driven: Col. 1:9-12

Community-Based:

Paul teaches these 3 priorities are the bedrock of a healthy Christian lifestyle

Areas of life and ministry that make demands on our time / energy / resources:

- Outreach
- “Body” Life: Home Group
- Marriage & Family
- Discipleship Ministry & Spiritual Friendships
- Work & Service
- Sitting under the Word – Corporate Teaching
 - Prayer and personal time with God are also integral and the engine that drives all of these areas.
 - **According to Paul in his letter to the Colossians, all of these areas are Gospel-Rooted, Mission-Driven and Community-Based and each is an integral part of a healthy spiritual lifestyle**

Body Life / Home Group: Col. 3:12-15

Work / Service: Col. 3:23,24

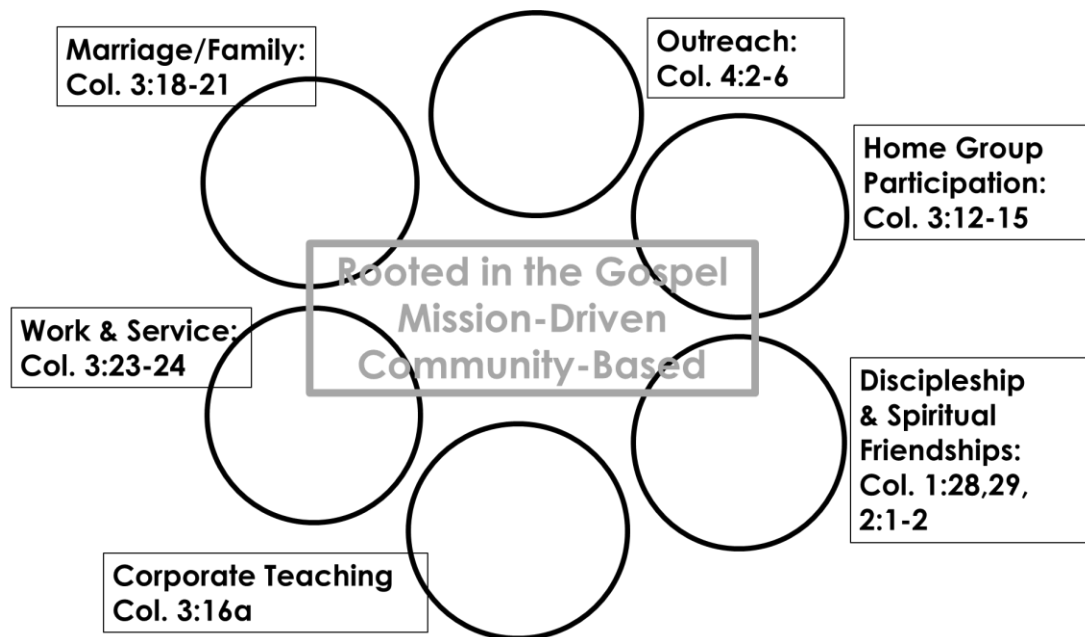
Outreach / Evangelism: Col. 4:2-6

Corporate Teaching: Col. 3:16

Discipleship & Spiritual Friendships: Col. 1:28-29; 2:1-2

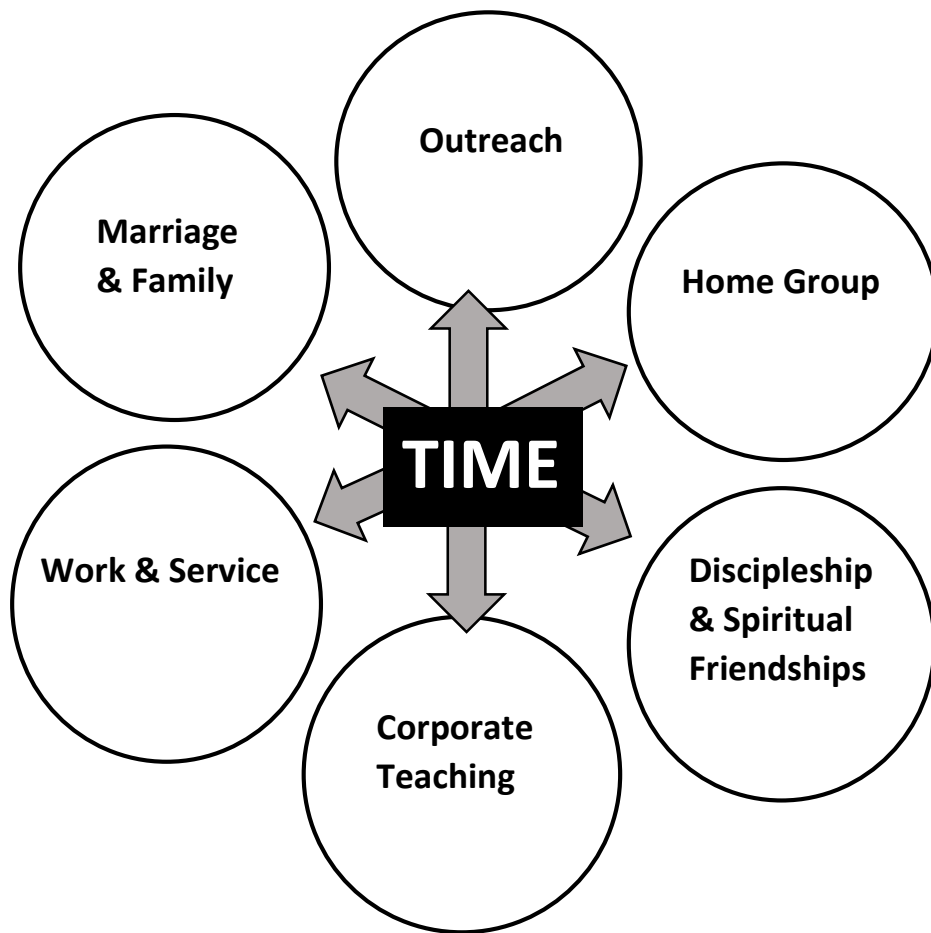
Marriage & Family: Col. 3:18-21

All of these commitments are important. Are you involved participating in all of them?



What do these commitments look like during the various stages of life? (various distortions)

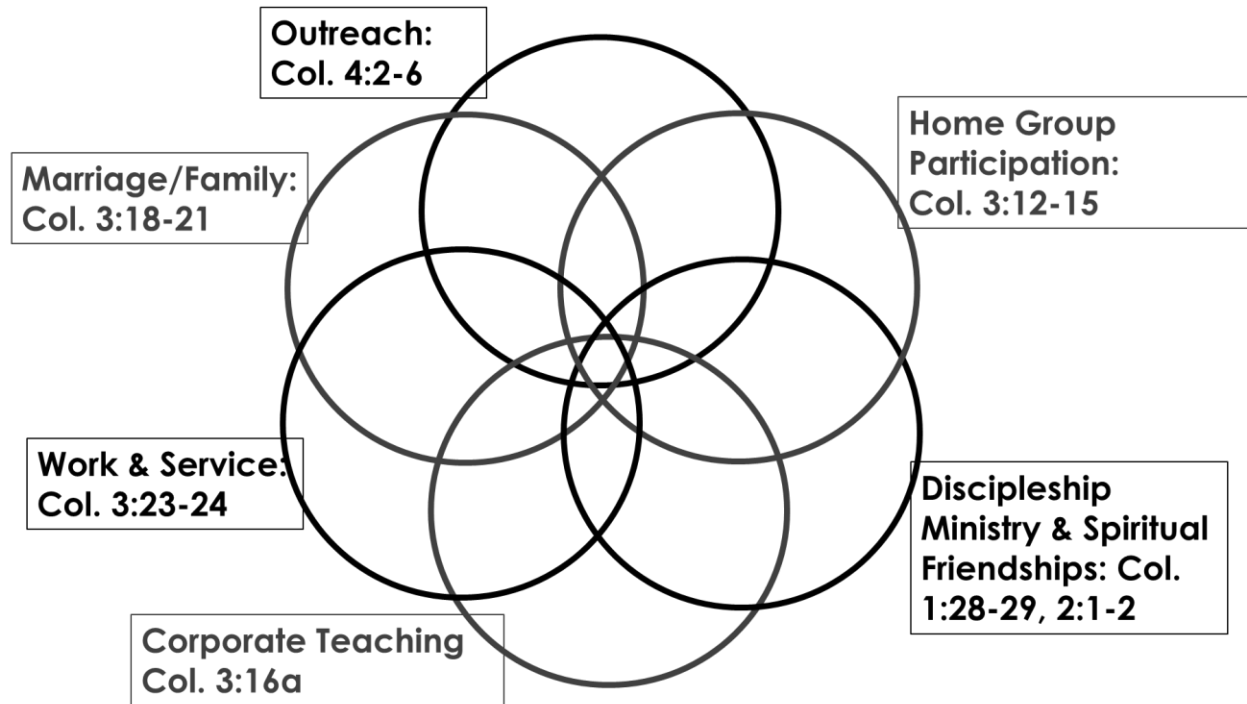
During various stages of life, these areas compete against one another for time / energy / resources.



What happens in our experience when these areas are in competition with one another?

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What is the KEY? The key is NOT “BALANCE”! The KEY is INTERDEPENDENCE!



Implications of the INTERDEPENDENCE of the various areas of life:

This is very difficult – maybe impossible – but if we want to live for Christ in this crazy world we must fight the spiritual battle for this kind of lifestyle. The integration of all areas of life being Gospel-Rooted, Mission-Driven & Community-Based.

Who is adequate for these things?

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