

# Living out of our marriage and family

***Eph 6: 1- 3***

# Introduction

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— **3** “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

**4** Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

# Introduction: Two Discipleship Issues

## #1 Dichotomy between Public & Private Life

Strong, Systematic & Serial Killer

Bo Xilai & Gu Kailai

*“It is a failure of self-leadership: Story of Greed, Revenge & Murder”*

# #1 Dichotomy between Public & Private Life

Champion, Compassion, & Cheat

Armstrong: 7-time Tour De France &  
Founder of LiveStrong Foundation  
"the most sophisticated, professionalized  
and successful doping program that  
sport has ever seen,"

# #1 Dichotomy between Public & Private Life

## Powerful, Persuasive & Permissive

Michael Palmer resigned from Speaker of Parliament, Singapore

General David Petraeus

“After being married for over 37 years, I showed extremely poor judgment by engaging in an extramarital affair.”

## #1 Dichotomy between Public & Private Life

### Evangelical, Effective & Extra-Marital Affair

In a letter read from the pulpit of New Life Church, former pastor Ted Haggard admitted that allegations against him are true.

*“The fact is I am guilty of sexual immorality,” he said. “I am a deceiver and a liar. There is a part of my life that is so repulsive and dark that I have been warring about it for my entire life.”*


# #1 Dichotomy between Public & Private Life

## **Pastoral, Promise, & Promiscuous Sexual Infidelity**

Married Pastor charged with having  
sex with 15-year-old church  
member.

# Introduction: Two Major Leadership Issues

## #2 Breakup of Marriage & Family



Why Asia's  
divorce rates are  
hitting all-time  
highs?



## **Divorce Rate**

2011, 7604 divorces.

2012: 7,237 Divorces

2013: 7,525 Divorces

21.0 Divorces A Day!

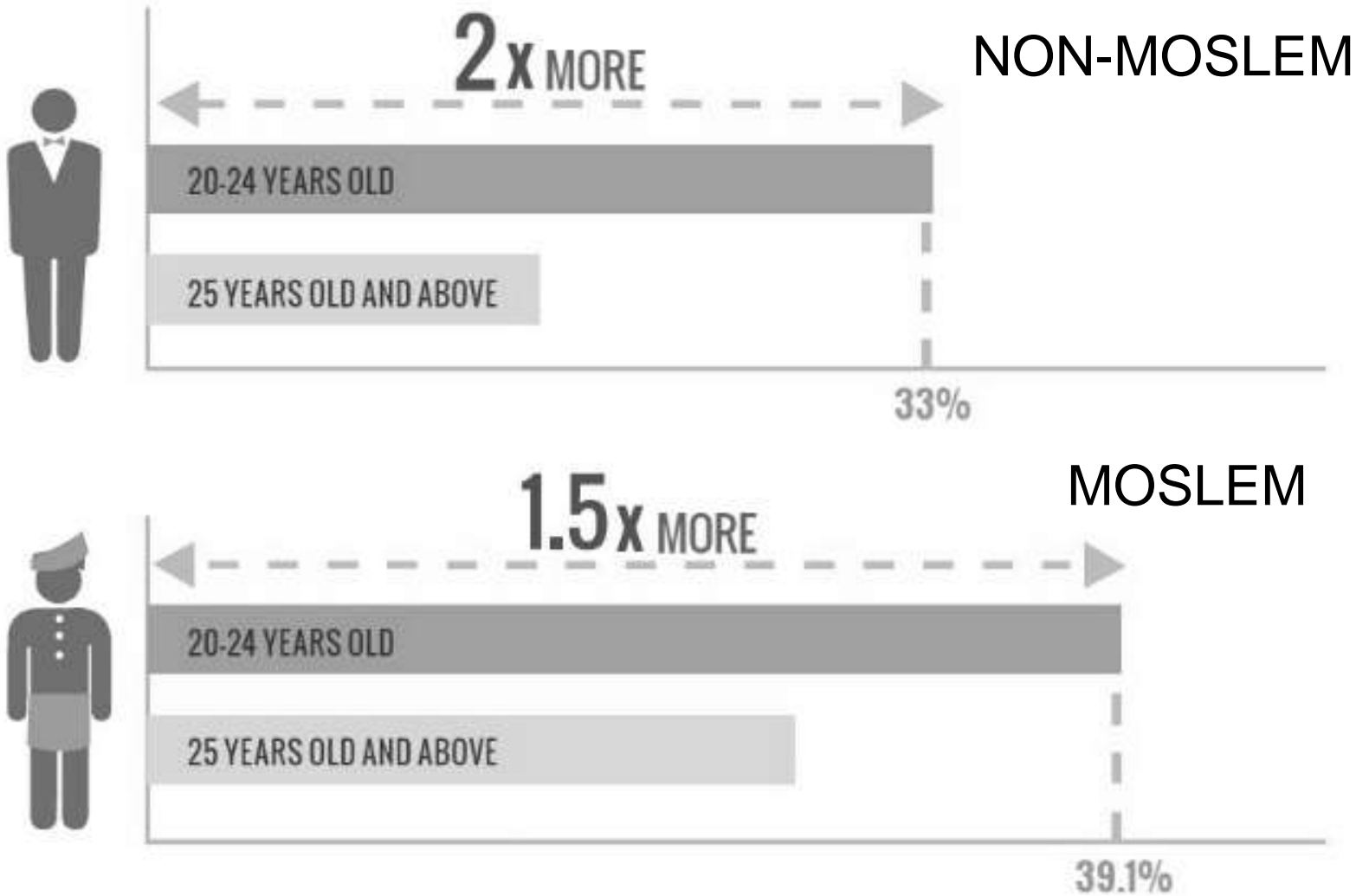
Every hour, there is 1 divorce!

## At Risk Couples:

1. Young couples 1-2 years
2. Couples who were married for 5-9 years accounted for the largest group (30 per cent)
1. Couples those who were married for 20 years or longer (20 per cent)

# Younger Couples Ending Faster

SOURCE: MSF

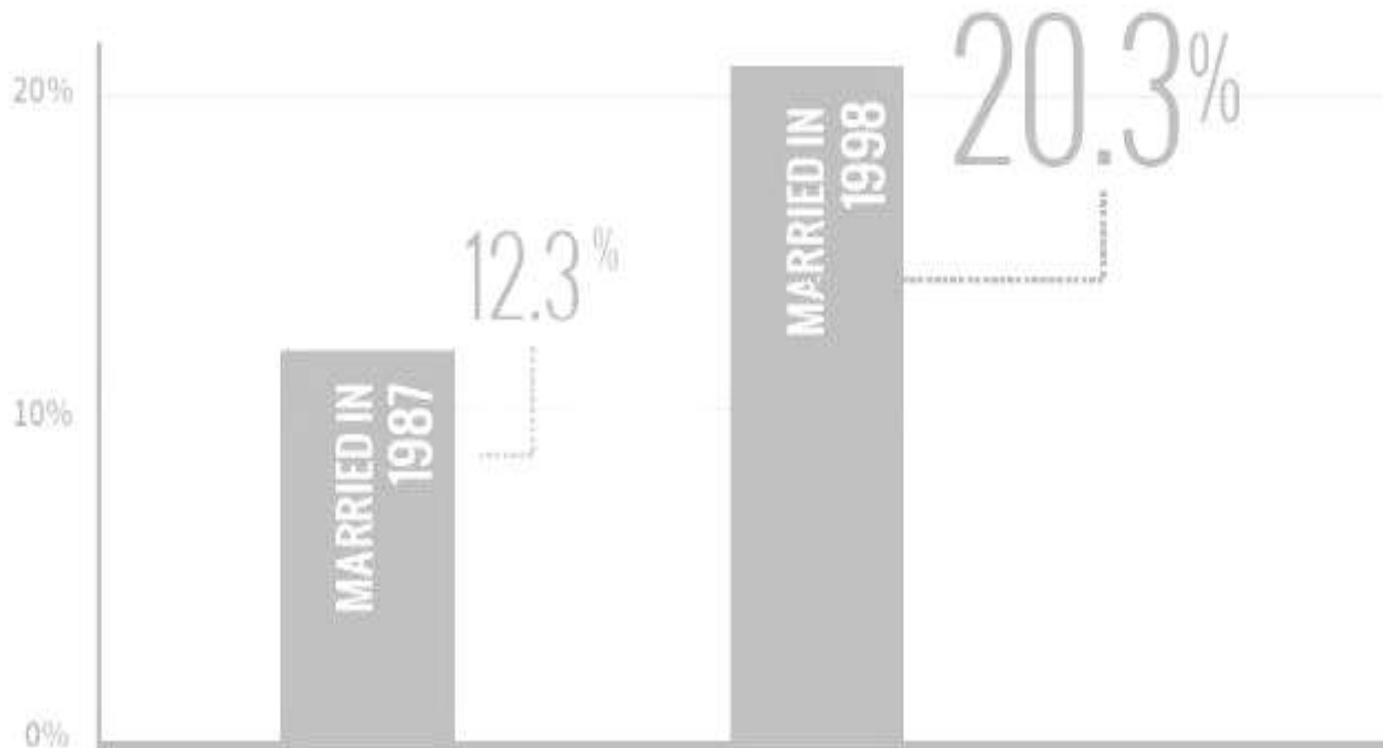


Percentage of Marriages 10<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Year  
Ending Faster  
SOURCE: MSF

	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Year Marriage</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Year Marriage</b>
Married in 1987	8.7%	12.3%
Married in 2003	16.1%	20.3%
	Increase by 100%	Increase by 67%

# Percentage of Total Dissolved Marriages by the 15th anniversary

SOURCE: MSF



# Percentage of Long Marriages Ending

SOURCE: MSF

Wed 20 Years Above

1993: 12.7%

2013: 20.6%

(Increase by 67%)

Wed 30 Years Above

1993: 2.2%

2013: 6.4%

(Increase by 200%)

# Percentage of Long Marriages Ending

SOURCE: MSF

Male 50 Years & Older

1993: 10.1%

2013: 25.7%

(Increase by 150%)

Female 50 Years &  
Older

1993: 4.9%

2013: 15.3%

(Increase by 200%)

## #2 Breakup of Marriage & Family

How many hours do you think a father spends a day with his young children?

1. 1 - 2 hour a day
2. 20 – 60 min
3. 15 – 20 min
4. Less than 1 min



## #3 Breakup of Marriage & Family

### Absentee Father Phenomenon

Study Father-Young Children.

Direct interaction

- Estimate: 15-20 min a day
- Father spends only 37 sec a day!
- 2.5 encounters each lasting 10-15 sec.

## Ray & Arlynn Mossholder

Author of eight books, including a teen novel, three on the family, and commentary on Ephesians.

Many thousands healed in his healing meetings.

More than 11,000 divorces have been reinstated.

More than fifty thousand people come to Christ Traveled to 25 foreign countries

## Ray & Arlynn Mossholder

Ray Mossholder, Marriage Plus Ministries filed for divorce from his wife, Arlynn of 42 years.

*“the story of the shoemaker who was so busy that his own wife had to go without shoes.*

*I have been that shoemaker.*

*I make no excuse for it.*

*I won't even blame devil for what has been my own fault.”*

## #3 Breakup of Marriage & Family

### Bob Pierce and World Vision

- Founder of World Vision, world's largest Christian organization in 1950
- Began ministry with helping Korean orphans
- The Christian Samaritan who literally laid down his life for 'little people.'

## #3 Breakup of Marriage & Family

Bob's wife, Lorraine 'knew deprivation of a different kind than those to whom her husband was ministering.'

## #3 Breakup of Marriage & Family

### Bob Pierce and World Vision

When one of his daughters wanted her to come home, he ignored her and proceeded to go to continue ministry on oversea trip.

“I just needed to feel Daddy’s arms around me, I knew he wouldn’t come.”

He was asked to resign in 1967.

Jackie Chan & Jaycee Chan  
Got A as Director but F as Father  
“My biggest regret...  
I don't have time with my son.”

## #2 Breakup of Marriage & Family

Functionally Effective but  
Emotionally Disengaged  
Marriage & Family



## #2 Breakup of Marriage & Family

### Functionally Effective but Emotionally Disengaged Relationship

<b>Wife</b>	<b>Husband</b>
• Drive kids to school	* Provide financially for family
• Packed the room	* Pay for tuitions
• Prepare food for kids	* Buy gifts for wife & kids
* Do housework	* Bring them for holidays
*	

# Introduction

**The key to effective  
communication is  
RELATIONSHIP**

# RELATIONAL COMMUNICATION

**Communication**

**=**

**Content**

**+**

**Relationship**

What?

How? + Who?

(facts)

(feelings)

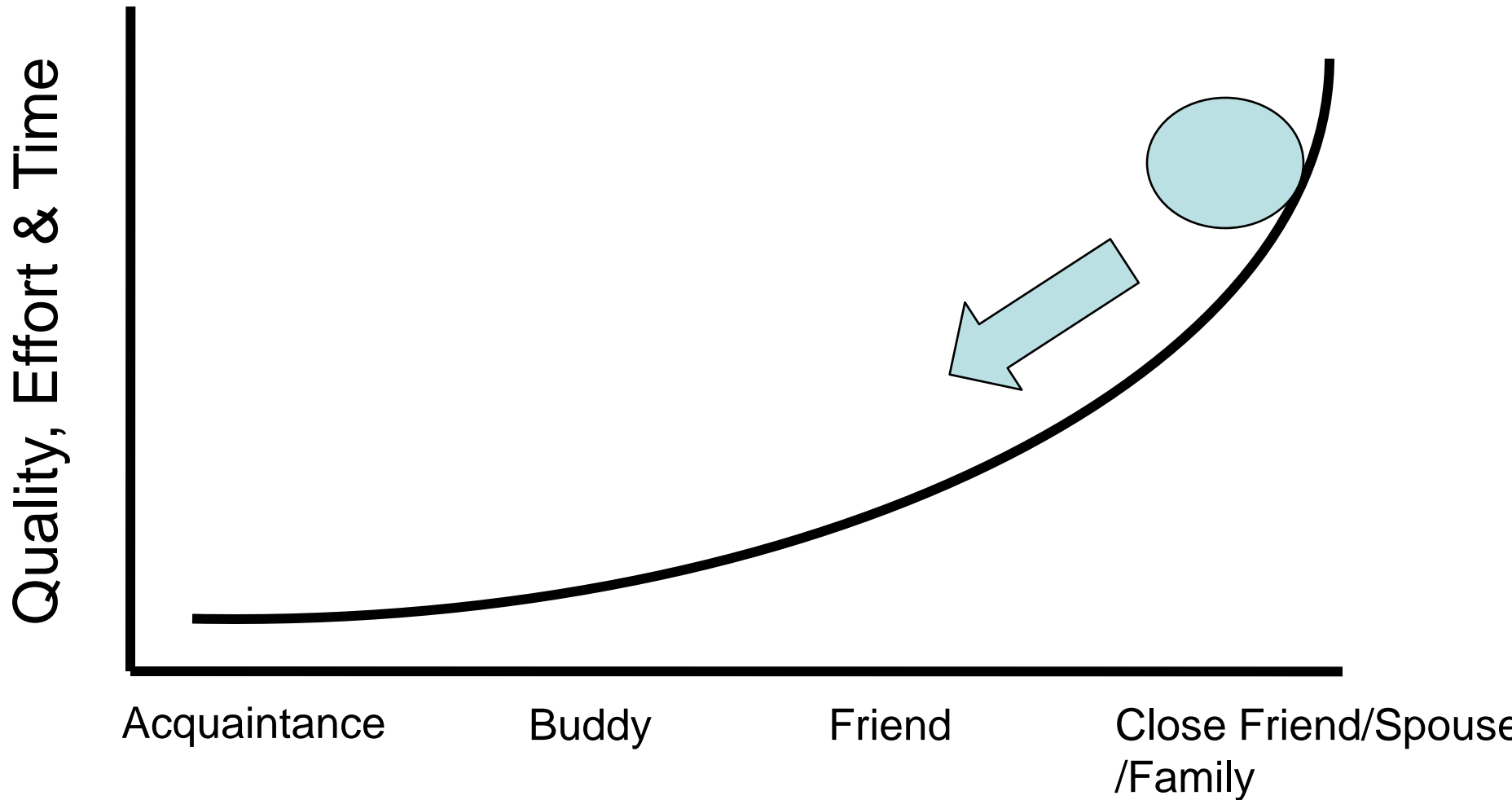
Verbal

Non-Verbal

20%

80%

# Relational Intimacy



# **CONTEXT: FATHER'S POWER: PATRIA POTESTA**

*“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph 6: 3)*

Absolute Power: Sell as slaves, work in fields in chains, punish as he likes, even inflict death penalty.

Roman son never come of age: A son always a son.

Son born placed at Father's feet: Receive – part of family. If not – thrown away. Sickly or deformed child.

# **CONTEXT: FATHER'S POWER = PATRIA POTESTA**

“We slaughter a fierce ox: we strangle a mad dog; we plunge the knife into sickly cattle lest they taint the herd; children who are born weakly and deformed, we drown.” Seneca

# #1 Healthy Marriage is foundational for healthy parent-child relationship

*“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph 6: 3)*

Exasperate: *“Goad our children to resentment”*  
*Col 3: 1: do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”*

We exasperate our children by:

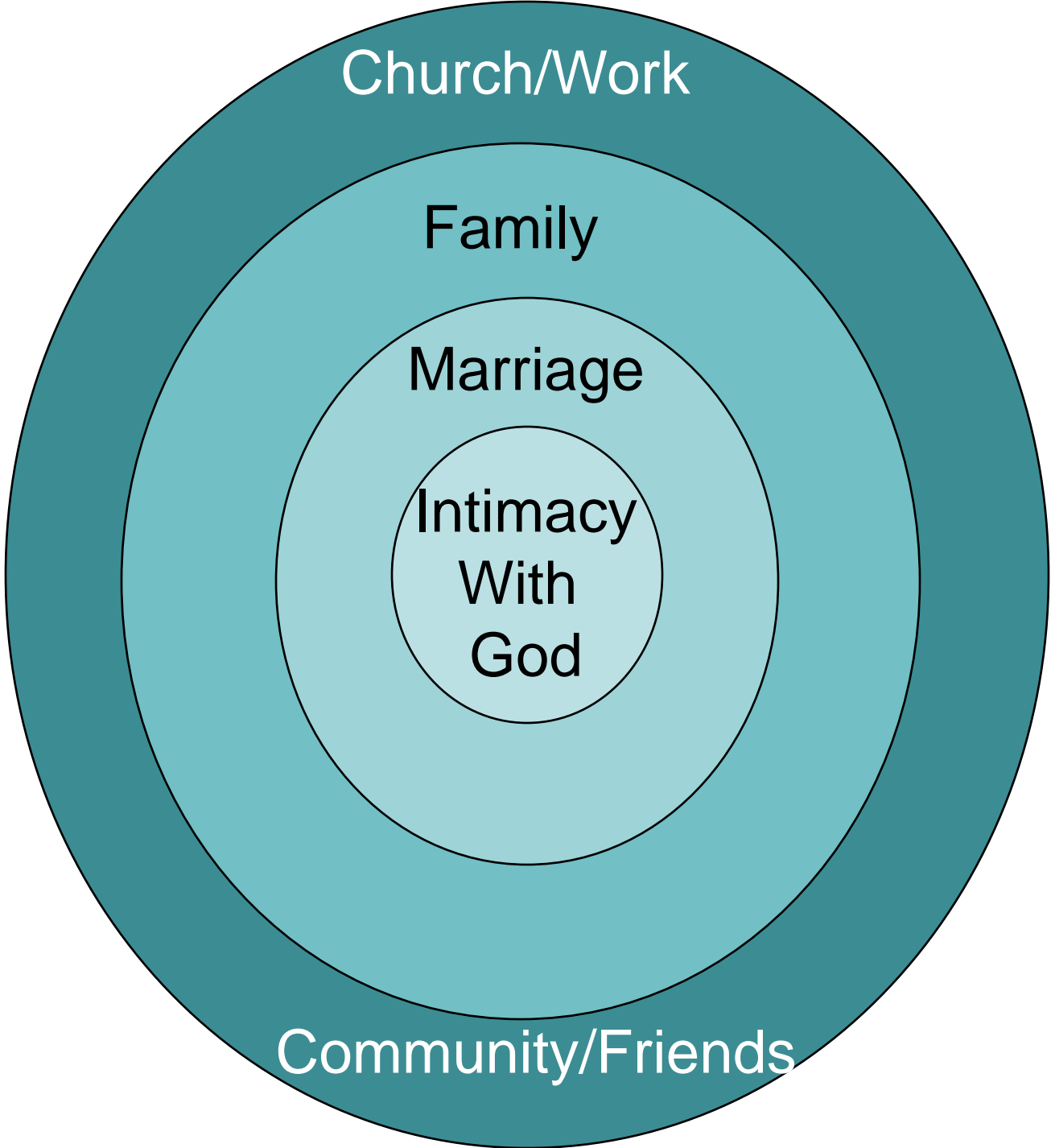
1. Our broken marriage: Healthy marriage strong correlation with healthy family

# #1 Marriage relationship is foundational for healthy parent-child relationship

- \* Healthy Marital relationship is key to strong parent-child relationship. (Jn 13: 34, 35)

*“This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” (Eph 5: 32, 33)*





Church/Work

Family

Marriage

Intimacy  
With  
God

Community/Friends

If you want to lead out of your marriage, then you must make marriage not leadership your first ambition, your first passion, and your loudest gospel message.

We must cultivate a strong desire to make visible the invisible the love of Jesus for his church in and through the love we have for our spouse. We then lead out of the overflow of this love.

In other words, out of the giving and receiving of the connection in our relationship, we have an extra 'give away' love. It overflows from the nurturing, connection, and sense of well-being we receive from one another.

*Most couples are passionate when they are engaged.*

*We cannot stop thinking of each other.*

*Day and night we wonder how to give ourselves to our future spouse. We are sexually attracted to him or her. We are drawn out of our selfishness into an other-centered focus.*

*“This passion, however, is not meant to diminish as the years and decades pass; rather, God intends it to deepen and mature. Passion is actually central to our marital vocation. Our relationship is to point to something beyond ourselves, to something more important, which is God’s passionate love for the world.”*

# Before and After Marriage

Before – Passion

After – Ration

Before – Don't stop

After – Don't start

Before – Turbocharge

After – Jump-start

Before – Saturday Night Fever

After – Sunday Night Football

Before – Idol

After – Idle

Before – Oysters

After – Fish cakes

Before – Is that all you're having?

After – Maybe you should just have a salad, honey?

Before – Is that all you're having?

After – Maybe you should just have a salad, honey?

Before – It's living in a dream.

After – it's like living in a dorm

Before – We agree on everything

After – Doesn't he have a mind of his own?, Why doesn't she agree with me?

Before – Charming and noble

After – Chernobyl

Before – I love a woman with curves

After – I never said you were fat

Before – He's completely lost without me

After – Why won't he ever ask for directions?

He's always lost with me around

Before – You look so seductive in black

After – Your clothes are so depressing



Before – She says she loves the way I take control of a situation

After – She calls me controlling, manipulative and egomaniac

Before – You take my breath away

After – I fell like I'm suffocating

Before – I can hardly believe we found each other

After – I can't believe I ended up with someone like you

Before – Time stood still

After – This relationship is going nowhere

# BEFORE AND AFTER MARRIAGE

Before – Once upon a time

After – The end

# **#1 Healty Marriage is foundational for healthy parent-child relationship**

We exasperate our children by:

1. Our unreasonable demands, crushing harshness, unfair comparisons, & unrealistic expectations

- \* We hurt the ones we love
- \* Asian parents love to compare: Son & daughter)

# How to provoke your child to anger?

- Exaggeration & Magnification
- Scapegoating & Nit-picking
- Focus on negatives & Parade of the horribles: Imagination of the worst possible
- Harsh start-ups & Personal attack

# Appropriate Discipline & Generous Affirmation

“Spare the rod and spoil the child –  
that is true; but beside the rod keep an  
apple to give him when he has done  
well.”

Martin Luther, who had an extremely strict, cruel  
father.

## **#2 Honoring parents is based on fundamentals**

Fundamental #1. Natural law written in human heart:

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. V 1*

*In all societies and every culture, this is the right duty.*

## #2 Honoring parents is based on fundamentals

Fundamental #2. Biblical norm with a promise  
*“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*

- *Reverence for parents is part of reverence for God (Exo 20: 12; Lv 19: 1-3*
- *The promise: A healthy parent-child is pre-requisite of a healthy community.*

## **#2 Honoring parents is based on fundamentals**

**Fundamental #3: It is anchored 'in the LORD'**

**Bad past experiences prevent us from honoring our parents**



# **Conclusion**

**RECOVER**  
**"KINTSUGI"**

Japanese cherish the imperfection of a broken pot repaired in this way....seeing it as a creative addition and/or re-birth to the pot's life story.

When something has suffered damage and has a history, it becomes more beautiful.

“Chances are, a vessel fixed by Kintsugi will look more gorgeous, and more precious, than before it was fractured.”