



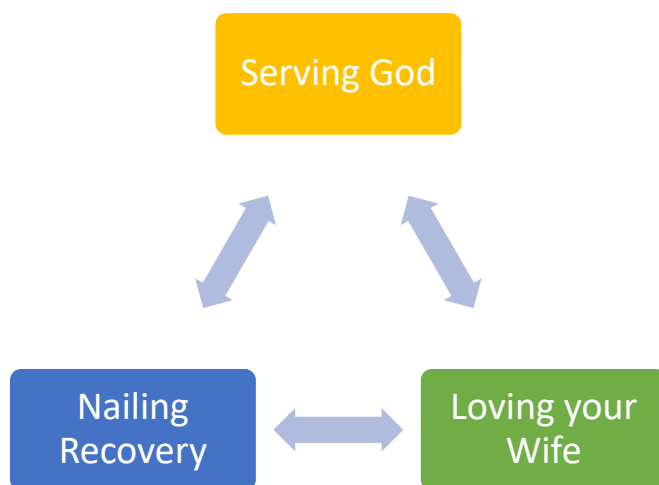
# LIVING THE BALANCE

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**1 Corinthians 7: 32-34** - I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. <sup>33</sup> But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. <sup>34</sup> His interests are divided.

## KEY PRINCIPLES of LIVING THE BALANCE

- Pleasing God and pleasing our spouse are co-responsibilities of a God-fearing man.
- To remain unmarried has benefits as it allows full concentration of one's life on doing the Lord's work. No earthly responsibilities.
- MARRIAGE CHANGES THINGS! You pick up new God-ordained responsibilities.
- Your "I Do" at the altar sets a clear new calling on your life.
- Simply - YOUR INTERESTS ARE NOW DIVIDED.
- Serving the Lord and letting Him work in me is still our day-to-day focus.
- BUT NOW - You have to be a great husband as well. That is GOD'S PLAN.
- You can't please God and somehow not be pleasing your wife.
- You can't be great vertically if you aren't right horizontally



***LIVE THE BALANCE!***

## 1. Serving God Fully

- a. Putting the Lord First in your life is the wisest thing you will ever do.
- b. Work to let the Lord change every area of your life that needs changing.
- c. Proverbs 3:5,6
- d. Romans 12:1-2
- e. Matthew 6:33
- f. Recommitting to the Lord is Part 1

## 2. Nailing Your Recovery Fully

- a. Your complete recovery honours the Lord and your spouse both.
- b. Don't think that doing your recovery work should get you a 'gold star' with her.
- c. Recovery is YOUR work for YOUR freedom to honour the Lord first of all.
- d. Recovery is your commitment to love well and love faithfully.
- e. Don't think - "she ought to thank me for all this hard work". Grow up!
- f. Rework your Reasons for why you want to maintain purity and integrity.
- g. Do the work of recovery - hard work, consistent work, LOTS of work.
- h. BUT DON'T STOP HERE! Recovery is Part 2.

## 3. Loving Your Wife Fully

- a. Turn your focus away from yourself. Work to rebuild your marriage!
- b. You selfishly let the addiction control you. Now your selfishness may limit your effort to love and please your wife.
- c. What if I asked her, "are you happy with how things are between you and your Man"?
- d. What does it mean to PLEASE YOUR WIFE"?
  - i. Is she happy?
  - ii. Does she enjoy spending time with you?
  - iii. Does she feel she is a priority in your wife?
  - iv. Does she feel respected and supported?
  - v. Are you still dating?
  - vi. Do you encourage her?
- e. What effort are you making to love and please your wife?
- f. You may need some marriage counselling to work through the hurts that your addiction and selfishness have had on the relationship.
- g. Rebuilding the Marriage is Part 3!

***LIVE THE BALANCE!***