



## CHAPTER 23

### Invest in Times Together Over Material Things

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("Rafe")

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Cover design: Paul D. Refior ("Rafe")

Third Printing: 2005

Printed in the United States of America

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## It's Your CHOICE – Invest In Times Together Over Material Things

### INVEST IN TIMES TOGETHER OVER MATERIAL THINGS

Couple A scrimps and saves and buys a new couch. Because of buying a new couch they do not have the funds for going out on dates or taking a brief vacation. Couple B scrimps and saves and uses the money to go on some dates and a vacation, but their couch which is in terrible shape cannot be replaced because there are no more funds. Answer this question. Which couple - Couple A or Couple B - is the most **practical**?

In my opinion it is Couple B - the one that spent the money on the dates and the vacation rather than on the couch. Furthermore, it is Couple B that was planning for and building their relationship through investment and experience. Think back ten years and ask yourself this. What significant memories do you have? Do you remember some particular object you purchased, or do you remember things that you **did**? Or to ask it a different way, when you think of how you have bonded or significantly related with another person, has it been because you shared ownership of some thing, or because you have shared common experiences? You know, that new couch will grow old and at some point be hauled away, whereas the memory of those dates and the memory of that vacation will remain and continue to be enjoyed and that investment was in a **joint** experience. If the husband goes on a vacation by himself and the wife goes on a vacation by herself then each can report to the other about what they did and there can be some interest and a degree of vicarious enjoyment. But the most that could ever come from that in the future would be something like, "I remember that you told me that you did . . . ." That is infinitely different than the two of you reminiscing about a **joint** experience and saying something like, "Remember when we did ... and we saw ...." Time is such a precious commodity. Life is but a breath. If you and your spouse are serious about maximizing your relationship and creating the highest beauty in your relationship, then you will be **investing** your money in going on dates, going on vacations and doing things together. That date that you skip can never be replaced. That vacation that was missed can never be made up. Plan for and pray for your special times with your beloved mate. Sweet times do not need to cost a lot, and often your dates can be free. Be creative. Turn off your cell phone or leave it at home or in the car (prove to your spouse that quality time with her/him is more important to you than any other person in the world who has your cell phone number).

You can never be 25 together again. You can never be 40 together again. You can never be 55 again. Life is like that. Not only is time a "use it or lose it" proposition, but so are the opportunities for you and your spouse to do things together each day, week, month, year, and decade that the Lord gives you together.

I suggest that you do whatever it takes to make time for each other, and to spend your money in the most **practical** way of all - building your loving marriage relationship, which in turn will bear fruit for a lifetime. Your joint memories will never rot, rust, or be stolen. And they will even get sweeter as the years go by. **CHOOSE** to enjoy and celebrate each other and your beautiful union.