

Faithful Stewardship of Our Time (Part 2)
Ephesians 5:15-16

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

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I. We need wisdom to make the best use of our time.

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A. Wisdom requires that we live carefully –

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Be very careful, then, how you live. (NIV)

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. (Eph.5:8b-10)

I. We need wisdom to make the best use of our time.

B. Wisdom requires that we find practical ways to make the best use of our time.

First, *I realize that all of my time is God's time and all of my time is my time by His delegation.* God owns me and my time. Yet, He has given me a measure of time over which I am a steward, . . . and for which I must give an account.”

– R.C. Sproul

Patrol Your Borders

The problem, as I see it, is a life that does not have either well-defined or properly enforced boundaries. However you may feel about illegal immigration we need to properly secure the border of our life and responsibilities.

To do this we need to identify what we are supposed to do and then do it. It sounds so simple doesn't it? Well, why don't we do it?

I think it is because we are often lazy, undisciplined, and lack the priorities in the moment to govern us. It takes discipline to apprehend the impulse to check email (or social media) when it is jumping over the wall into your family time.

We are the ones who have to say, “No. This is not the time.” Nobody is going to protect our family time, rest, or specific work tasks for us.

A tool for me in this process was to do an in-depth diagnostic of my schedule. . . .

When you go through this process and see what you have to do and when you have to do it you become less likely to have porous borders.

I only have a few hours per day with my kids. Why would I be checking my email or allowing other mental intrusions?

Each week on the first day of the week I spend about an hour looking at projects, tasks, and schedule. I try to reasonably plan for the week in order to get the most important things done. Over time I've learned that a major tool to help ensure that these things get done are clear and enforced borders.

– Erik Raymond.

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“Never before in history have so many potential distractions been offered to Christians.”

- Clinton Arnold

“Place a high value upon your time, be more careful of not losing it than you would of losing your money.

“Be more careful to escape that person, action or course of life that would rob you of your time than you would be to escape thieves and robbers.”

- Richard Baxter

“Time is the quiet oxygen that allows us to breathe in the joys of life. We need it. It’s precious.”

- Erik Raymond