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## A matter of equations

Mathematically speaking, it seems logical to our bosses that working more hours means being more productive. This means to get ahead, it makes sense to never take a weekend off because it means you would be making more money too. The equation would work out to be:

**More Time Spent Working + Some More Work  
= More Productivity, More Money, More Happiness.**

Sounds right?

Maybe it makes a whole lot of sense to our employers but not the employees. After being robbed of our weekends, we are burnt out. However, if we have our way and we have weekends to ourselves and less hours to work each day, I wonder how we would actually spend that extra time. How do we live our lives outside work? At this time, the words **intentional living** come to my mind.

According to Wikipedia, **Intentional living** is any lifestyle based on an individual or group's conscious attempts to live according to their values and beliefs. These can include lifestyles based on religious or ethical values, as well as coaching, personal transformation and leadership training.

What is our lifestyle based on?

In Singapore, it is common to see in eateries people sitting at tables being more engaged with their mobile phones than spending the time conversing with each other. The question in my mind is this: What is the point of meeting up with friends and families for meals?

We live in a world that harps on our insecurities. Of never being **good/popular/worthy/successful/accomplished** enough. The number in my bank account, how people see me or the number of followers I had on social media is somehow equated to my worth and encourages me to do something to increase my worth. Even on an occasional vacation, we take our mobile phones to the pool so we don't get left behind. Not to forget, being seen hanging out with the right company is important too. A recent photo of Hillary Clinton sums this up pretty well, that we are often more concerned being seen with somebody than seeing or being with somebody.



Photo that is widely circulated from a twitter account

When we are with somebody, are we really just there with them physically?

### **1 Peter 1:18-19**

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect*

It is easy to get this whole 'intentional living' thing all twisted. Our motives easily morph into wanting something else instead of wanting the right and most important thing, taking things to an extreme that God did not intend. Being "in" the world means we can **enjoy** the things of the world, such as the beautiful creation God has given us but we have to remember we are not to immerse ourselves in what the world values, nor are we to chase after worldly pleasures.

We need to remember that God not only redeemed us from sin and penalty, He has also redeemed us from an empty life. Living the new life He has given us doesn't mean living aimlessly, taking a backseat in life. It is of living life intentionally instead of letting things happen to us. It is making a determined effort to strengthen our relationship with God.

**Have you decided what your equation is going to be like?**

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