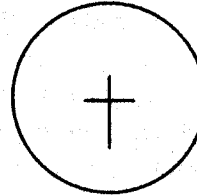
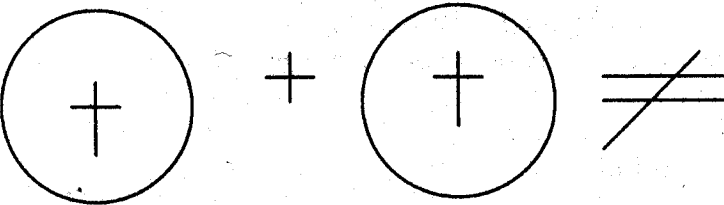


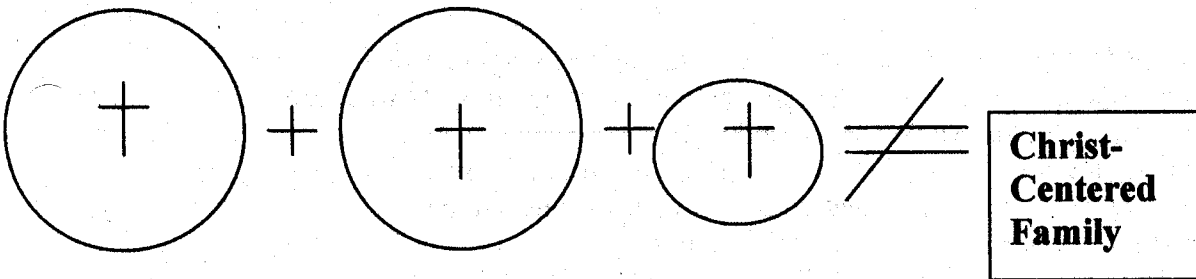
I Regional Development, CDT Topics, 2005 and Local Input**A. Topics:**

- 1) Child-centered parenting
- 2) Media
- 3) Raising boys to be men
- 4) Single women and courtship
- 5) School choice pros and cons
- 6) Women teaching in Community

B. CDT/ Local interplay**II Models of Life** (hamartia)**A. Individual** (Christ-centered, etc.) (L.I.S.)**B. Marriage** (Christ-centered, etc.)

**Christ-
Centered
Marriage**

(not necessarily equal)

C. Family (Christ-centered, etc.)

**Christ-
Centered
Family**

C. Blended attempts

-e.g. Christ-centered individuals and cultural marriages, families, and parenting styles

III Some Cultural Influences on Lifestyles, Marriage and Families:**A. Introduction:**

- 1) We often deal with the mechanics or problems after the fact.
 - We deal with the surface expressions.
 - We can miss the deeper cultural trends and concerns that are shaping the approaches to personal/marriage/ family living. The mind is being formed to produce conditioned responses.
 - We observe folks' behavior and decisions and miss underlying value sets and pressures from society and relatives
- 2) We can be really culturally driven, culturally responsive, while claiming to be Christ-centered.
 - Fear-based living, fear of rejection, accidents, kidnapping, disease, terrorism, etc.
 - Approval: extended family, school, etc.
 - Fear of rejection by relatives, school

- competitive spirit; driven to win.
- an "entitlement" mentality: We "deserve" certain things as individuals and families.
- B. Personal: greed, orderliness, perfectionism, being a clean freak, non-confrontational, peaceful at all costs (peaceful in a bad sense), passive, pleasure orientation, fear, guilt, accomplishment, success, education, security, (money, acquisition, etc.)
- C. Marriage: best friends, confessor, adventurers, partners, lovers, conversationalists.
 - Some things can be more or less true, but can be less helpful due to exaggerated emphasis.
- D. Family: An island unto itself, nuclear, missionary, social action, academic excellence center, success-based, achievement oriented, patriotic, career-based, sports-based, part of a clan, part of a tribe, child-centered,
- E. Some effects: divorce rate; ambivalence of single men; self-centered adults workaholics, adultery, suicides, nervous breakdowns, rudderless people, rudderless nests; *the approach should be worked out, agreed to in courtship.*

IV. *The Culture of Self*

- A. The culture of Death (a subset) vs. the Culture of Life
- B. Relativism (a subset)
- C. Narcissism and Hedonism (a subset)
- D. ME! ME!! I! I! MINE! MINE! (not the Kingdom)

V. *Christ-centered Living* (conversions, B.I.S., ongoing decisions needed)

- A. It is a challenge for every level, every *group* (e.g. Marriage in Spirit weekend)
- B. Requires education/ knowledge of cultural drift.
- C. Suggest that, not only individuals, but groupings (marriage, family Community) have an "examination of conscience" questioning behavior, practices, priorities, decision-making.
 - I W D W J W D "I will do..." - W W D W J W D "We will do..."
- D. Christ-centered Living Questions:
 - 1) What does God want? 2) What does the Bible say? 3) What is just? 4) What is right? 5) What have we been told to do (by the Lord) and how does this decision serve that? 6) What puts God in the center? 7) What is my responsibility? 8) What have I covenanted or agreed to do?
- E. The Lord wants Christ-centered individuals, families, and community

VI. *What Can We Do?* (Remember Ray's "Change" talk)

- A. It starts with us, each one moving away from the self back to the Lord
 - B. Always suspect the self when desiring or making decisions
 - C. Read Scripture a lot; get children to do it
 - look for antidotes to world, flesh, devil (esp. flesh)
 - world, Satan have less power over broken flesh person
 - D. Pray for protection from self; for spouse, children, POG
 - E. Insist on "everything lovely and good" (Tom's talk) Phil 4:8
 - F. Heart check: "the eyes see what the heart allows" Simpson
 - G. Rekindle Fear of the Lord: SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES!
- "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free!" Jn 8:32**
 (Note: don't miss 31)