

“THE BIG PICTURE”

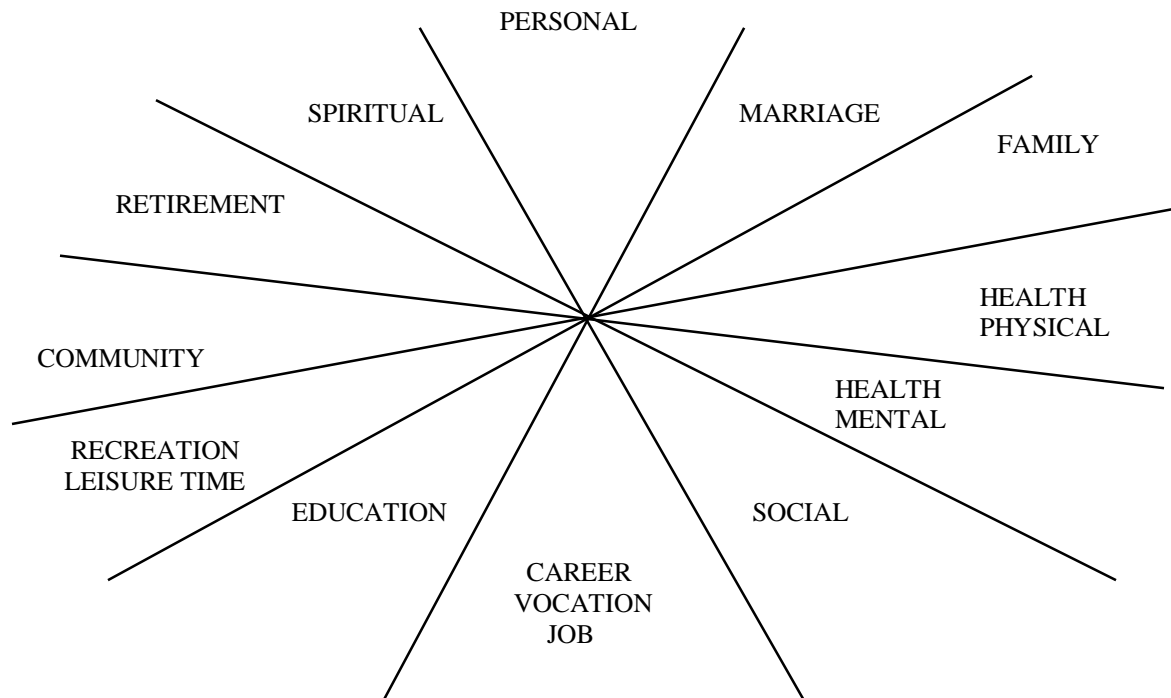
The purpose of any good, productive, contented life is to foster and maintain a balance, so that one area of life is not expanded at the expense of another. We hear much about “overview” and “perspective” and “the big picture,” but for our purposes we’ll call it the big picture. I would suggest you see your life as a big picture cut up like a jigsaw puzzle. You need to fit all the pieces into it to acquire that sense of balance—happiness, fulfillment and attainment that you’re after.

The Big Picture

This discussion will lead us into other areas of goal-setting.

The ideal, it should be evident, is not to set one or two particular goals. You need to look at all components of your life. Ask yourself what goals you wish to set for your health, your family, your education, your vocation, your business life, your service to your community. Ask what you intend to target for your retirement, your living style, your spiritual life, financial life and your marriage.

You will find, as you grow into a balanced human being, that fulfillment and happiness will readily follow. The following “spokes of the wheel” drawing can be very useful.



So first, examine your present life style and determine if your goals all fit together in terms of “total life” balance. Do you clearly visualize how you want your life to be integrated into a meaningful “big picture?” Are you leaving out, underemphasizing or overemphasizing the value of some important parts of your life? What do you gain, for example, if you center only on your business life and neglect your family? Using this “totality” approach, do the same thing for your work situation, your company. Is there balance in the totality of your company? Should some departments or activities be getting more attention than they are now getting? This same evaluation can be made of all components in your life.