



Simplicity

Week of March 28, 2021

Intro Discussion Questions:

- *What did God reveal to you this past week in the Bible Reading Plan or through fasting last Friday?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

This message deals with a discipline which has fallen in disrepute in recent years, due in part, to the unwillingness of evangelical leaders to model it. Even worse is the “name it claim it” prosperity preaching that has led people to believe faith is a path to worldly wealth. The discipline of simplicity (frugality is closely associated) is based on the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels and the teachings of Paul the Apostle in the epistles. After an introduction on the concept of simplicity as a discipline we will look at one thing simplicity is not and four things simplicity is! This discipline is one of the hardest disciplines for those of us who live in very affluent parts of the world. However, it is absolutely necessary we learn this discipline if we are to show the world the proper priorities which lead to the life that is really life!

Main Scripture

- *Read 1 Timothy 6:3-19*

What Simplicity Is NOT!

Simplicity is Not Being a Simpleton (1 Tim. 6:3-5)

- Simplicity doesn't mean that we are to take a light hearted stance towards what we believe or our doctrine and theology. Our doctrines and our beliefs on the spiritual discipline of simplicity really do matter. Paul knew that there were people who would use religion and faith as a means to acquire financial gain whose motivation was to use their positions and their influence merely for financial gain.
- The spiritually wise person has always known that frivolous consumption corrupts the soul away from trust in, worship of, and service to God and injures our neighbors as well!
 - **Ask Question** - *What are some things you have bought that you've never used or rarely used?*
 - **Read Matt 6:19-21** *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and*

rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

How Can We Practice the Discipline of Simplicity?

1. Treasure True Contentment (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

- We must be wise about these things and realize that true contentment is not found in what we possess materially, but in who possesses our heart and mind. Does the Lord sit on the throne of your heart? Frugality is an important part of practicing simplicity. It is the abstention from flippant and careless use of material possessions merely for oneself. The spiritually wise person has always known that frivolous consumption corrupts the soul away from trust in, worship of, and service to God and injures our neighbors as well.”
- One of the outflows of being truly content with what we have is when we start practicing godly restraint for what we do not have. You might think of Godly restraint as saying no to something so we can yes to something else. When we say no to the world’s lies and yes to God’s truths, we are saying no to things that would harm us and saying yes to things that would help us find the life that is truly life!
 - **Ask Question** - *As believers, our desire should be for the Lord to reign over every aspect of our lives. In what ways do the things you own take precedence over your relationship with God and with others?*
 - **Read Psalm 73:25-26** - *Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

2. Pursue What Matters (1 Tim. 6: 11-16)

- The tragedy is that the lasting satisfaction and pleasure that humankind so desperately needs will not be found in the temporary and trivial pursuits so many seek after. Only in a daily, growing, and passion-filled relationship with Jesus Christ can the deepest longings of the soul be satisfied.
- It’s okay to have financial goals and even some material goals, but if those goals are your main goals in life, you will be left sorely disappointed! Paul said we should chase what really matters the most in life by pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.
 - **Ask Questions**
 - *In what ways have you missed opportunities for godly pursuits because you were focused on something that doesn’t matter?*
 - *What godly things would you be able to say yes to if you practiced restraint in obtaining what you do not have?*
 - **Read Matt. 6:33** *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

3. Give Generously (1 Tim. 6: 17-19)

- God will bless that kind of commitment when we choose to live more simply so that others can simply live! It is hard to imagine the truth in what Jesus said when He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” until you’ve actually practiced generosity!

- **Ask Question** - *Practicing simplicity allows you the freedom to be generous to others. What are some needs that others have in your life that you could be free to give toward and help with if you practiced more simplicity?*
- **Read Eph 3:20-21** - *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Closing

- Remind your group of the church-wide fast opportunity
 - Fasting this Friday for lunch, or breakfast and lunch. Praying for specific purposes.
 - Saving money that would have been spent on meals for missions offering.
 - Joining us on Good Friday evening for worship at 7pm. Missions offering will be collected.
- *Ask Question - What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.