

Live a Simple Life

Sunday AM, April 24, 2022

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2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

I. One of the easiest things to observe is that joyful living is found much more among those who live simple lives than among those whose lives are full and complicated.

A. We start out as children and we are satisfied with the simple things.

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

1. Life could not be simpler than it is for a child.
2. They find joy in the simple things: rocks, dirt, flowers, all the creatures God has made, the clouds in the sky, the stars at night.
3. Their world is very small and their social circle is only a few people.
4. Their love is unfeigned and they see good in everything and everyone.
5. They only find out what sorrow, grief, trouble, and unhappiness is as they grow and are taught by their parents and others how to complicate their lives and seek after “things” to make them happy for only brief periods of time.
6. Their innocent, happy lives turn into darkness as the sin of covetousness takes control of their soul.

B. It seems to be truth of life that the less we possess, the easier it is for us to live joyfully.

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

C. We are always better off with a few things than with many.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

2 Corinthians 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

- D. But it seems pretty much impossible to convince people of that fact.
- E. Almost everyone believes that having what they desire will make them happy, and so the pursuit of their life is to accumulate things of this earth, to have everything they think they need to make life easy and good for them and their loved ones.
- F. But in this pursuit of happiness with this philosophy of life we absolutely make it impossible to live joyfully.

II. It is not having few things that brings joy or happiness.

A. Poverty itself does not bring joy or happiness.

B. It's that the abundance of things distracts us from God and makes it harder for us to know Him, walk with Him, and live in obedience to Him.

- C. When our life is so full of things and business and cares we are blinded to God and spiritual things.
- D. In the parable of the sower the one's who did not make it were the ones whose lives were complicated by tribulations, afflictions, and the cares of life.

Matthew 13:20-22 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

- E. Joy comes from knowing God and walking in his light.

Psalm 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

III. No one can have true and lasting joy until God is all his life is about.

- A. We are talking about living a simple life – what does that mean?

SIM'PLE, a.

1. Single; consisting of one thing; uncompounded; unmingled; uncombined with any thing else.
2. Plain; not given to design, stratagem or duplicity; sincere; harmless.
3. Not complex or complicated;

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Ephesians 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

- B. We cannot have a joyful life until God becomes the center of everything and the source of all our strength, wisdom, and love for others.
- C. Until a person is forgiven, reconciled to God, redeemed, regenerated, born again of the Spirit of God, he will continue to seek after happiness through his covetousness.
- D. But after a person has been truly born again and has begun to walk with God and experienced true joy, he will, at some point stop his pursuit of happiness in worldly things.
 1. He will stop dreaming of better things, and stop envying others who have better things than does
 2. He will learn to be content with such things as he has, and in whatsoever state he is in.
 3. He will not thirst after the things of the world but after the things of God.
 4. That will be where he finds his true joy, regardless of whether he has little or much; whether his circumstances are good or they are bad.
- E. What can we do to simplify our lives?
 1. The first thing to do when you realize you are in a hole is to stop digging.
 2. We need to stop gathering and start being satisfied and making do with what we have.
 3. We need to stop looking at others and following them in their vain pursuit of happiness, and start looking to God ONLY for satisfaction and contentment in life because that is the only place it can be found.