

The Simple Life

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

The simple life is a life of sincere devotion to Christ and the truth of God's Word. The simple life involves uncomplicated Christian living for Christ, which is free from hypocrisy and deceit. It's a life of sincerity and devotion directed toward Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3 gives a warning to God's people, "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." Satan wants to deter us from our personal commitment or devotion to Christ which is called the "simplicity that is in Christ."

The imagery behind the word "simplicity" pictures something that is unmixed or undiluted and expresses the truth that God's people must possess a single aim or purpose in life that is free from hypocrisy or one that is untainted by false motive or pretence. The child of God must possess sincere and devoted living toward God's purpose for their lives. Col. 3:22 states it this way, "... not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God."

Undivided affection and loyalty to Christ should be the natural response of a bride to her spouse. The allusion to the marriage

relationship is maintained in this section of Scripture (2 Cor. 11:2 – “for I have espoused you to one husband”). Paul had compared the Corinthians to a virgin promised to one husband (Christ), and he feared lest their affections might be seduced from Christ and transferred to another (Satan). Satan wants to corrupt our minds “from the simplicity that is in Christ.” In other words, the devil wants to get us off the simple path of Christian living and devotion to Christ. Satan wants to complicate things in our life by getting us to lose our spiritual perspective on what is important in life.

Only when we live the simple life we can keep things in proper perspective and possess meaning for our earthly existence. Paul said, “For to me to live is Christ...” (Phil. 1:21). Christians can lose their sense of spiritual balance when they take their eyes off the simple things of life or those things that God expects them to do and put into daily practice. We lose our spiritual equilibrium when we lose sight of what is most important or what really matters in life.

The simple things relate to such things as loving God (Mark 12:30), possessing faith in God (Mark 11:22), worshipping God (John 4:23-24; Ps. 5:1-3), walking with God (Gen. 5:22, 24; 6:9; Psalm 42:1), sitting at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:39-42), maintaining proper

distinctions and priorities in life (Matt. 6:24, 33), forgetting the past (Phil. 3:13), living the Christ life (Phil. 1:21; 3:10,14), looking unto Jesus (Rom. 12:2), following Jesus (Luke 14:26), obeying God's Word (John 14:15; James 1:22-23), living a holy life (1 Pet. 1:14-15), and doing what is honorable in the Lord's sight (1 Cor. 10:31) without any taint of hypocrisy (Matt. 23:28). In other words, God's people are to learn the secret of living according to God's basic plan and do what is right out of sincerity and genuineness. The life of "simplicity" or living an uncomplicated simple way of life can only be experienced as we follow God's plan for our lives and do it out of a right heart that is free from pretence.

The old saying is still true, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing!" One of my Bible training instructors used to say, "The main things are the plain things and the plain things are the main things." Let us learn the secret of keeping our lives simple in connection with living the Christian life and doing what is right. Stick to the main things and the plain things for they are the simple things of life that will please God (John 8:29; 2 Tim. 2:4) and fulfill our lives (John 10:10).

A close friend of mine, Dr. Wendell Heller, always says, “God wants us to remain simple in faith and singular in focus.” This is very true and is the answer to living the simple life, which is nothing less than an obedient life that is wholeheartedly devoted to God’s word, will, and purpose for our lives. The simple life is a life that stays on target spiritually and which is free from any taint of hypocrisy. Joshua 24:14, “Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth ...” This is the crux of what the simple life is all about. The believer must learn the secret of remaining simple in faith and staying spiritually focused in life while living in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Phil. 2:15).

God wants us to remain simple! Keep it simple! The believer is to have a simple faith in the Lord, a simple love for the Lord, and a simple love for the Word of God and doing what is right. Life’s pressures and Satan’s temptations have a way of crowding out these simple things from our lives. Let us be pure, sincere, and free from hypocrisy and possess a single purpose or aim in life to do what is right and pleasing to the Lord. The Christian life is simple. Just do what God wants you to do. Claim His promises and be devoted to

God's truth, as found in His Word. Keep the main thing the main thing. Stay simple!