

# Simplicity: Finding Focus and Uncluttering our Lives

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Key take-aways for participants

## **SIMPLICITY: A DEFINITION**

Simplicity—One's style and manner of living should be based on the values found in God's economy, with a concern for the well-being of others and the preservation and right sharing of natural and human resources.

Concern for simplicity is ultimately rooted in our willingness to be singularly focused on the concerns of the Kingdom, rather than becoming distracted with unnecessary or unhelpful matters in the stewardship of our time, talents, resources, and energies.

Our lives ought to be ordered in such a way that we are freed to serve God faithfully in all things.

## **QUERIES FOR PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL REFLECTION**

- Is my/our life marked by simplicity?
- Am I/Are we free from the burden of unnecessary possessions?
- Am I/Are we careful to speak with honesty, clarity and simplicity?
- Is my/our life free from unhealthy habits and addictions?
- Do we keep our lives and life together uncluttered?
- Do we refuse to let the prevailing culture and media dictate our needs and values?
- Do we take time for sabbath, trusting in God's provision and ultimate redemption?
- Do we accept commitments beyond our strength, Light, and sense of call?
- Do we take time to notice and address that which detracts us from God and our calling?
- Do I/we live within our means in order to not be burdened by debt or a burden to others?

## **CONSIDERING A PURCHASE? ASK YOURSELF**

- Do I really need this?
- Does this enhance or hinder faithfulness?
- Does this add to or detract from the kind of life I want to/feel called to live?
- Where did it come from? Are others harmed or helped if I purchase this?
- When I am done with it, where will it go?
- Am I willing to give this away if someone needs it more than I do?
- What is the true cost of this?
- Other questions? What questions do you ask yourself before making a purchase?

## **AS YOU EXPLORE A LIFE OF SIMPLICITY...**

- What do you behold?
- How are you fixing your eyes on Christ?
- What are the distractions that send you spinning in circles?