

SHARPENING THE AXE
Journeyman, February 26, 2014
Session 6: "Spiritual Disciplines: Simplicity"

Poverty Theology

Prosperity Gospel

Liberation Theology

Stewardship Theology

Points of Agreement

1. Money & Possessions are good Gifts from God
2. Money & Possessions can become idolatrous
3. We are called to exercise stewardship of our finances to please God and further the Kingdom.

Simplicity = Voluntary freedom from earthly treasures to foster contentment in Christ.

Matthew 6:19-24

Proverbs 15:16, 17:1

Psalms 27:16

Ecclesiastes 4:6

Leviticus 25:8-12

Simplicity frees us from:

1. Tyranny of self

- Am I pretending to be an expert where I am only an amateur?
- Do I give the impression of being more godly (or more profane, whichever will give more status in the group) than I truly am?
- Do I try to impress people with my degrees, titles, or honors?

2. Tyranny of things

- Am I living contentedly with my income?
- Am I a compulsive buyer?
- Do I try to impress people with gadgets?

3. Tyranny of people

- Can I allow an unfavorable comment about myself stand, without any need to straighten out the matter?
- In recounting events, do I shift the story ever so slightly to make myself appear in a more favorable light?
- Must I always make excuses for my behavior?
- Can I accept compliments freely without any need to shrug them in self-conscious modesty?

Small Group Discussion

Connect

1. How did your observations go? What did you learn and how will this help you?

Grow

1. Which of the points of agreement on stewardship do you emphasize? Why?
2. Out of tyranny of self, people and things; which do you struggle with? How will you practice simplicity in that area?

Reach

1. How do you think simplicity will affect your view of other people?