

Simplicity Handout

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Ponder these verses in terms of “one” thing in your life:

- **Matthew 6:25-33; 28:18-20**

Look through these passages in light of simplicity:

- Gen 1:28; 2:15 stewards of creation.
- Ex 20:1-3 and idolatry
- 4th and 10th commandments address covetousness, too → Eph 5:5; Col 3:5
- Lev 25 Year of Jubilee and what it does to land ownership
- Law of tithe, Lev 27:30-33; Num 18:21-32; Deut 12:5-18; Deut 14:22-28.
- Gleaning in fields, Lev 19:9-10; Deut 24:19-21
- Deut 6:4-5 *shma*
- FT neither poverty nor wealth condemned. Blessings to obedient, cf. Ps 37:3-4; 73, esp. v. 25.
- No commands, but principles, Deut 8:17-18
- In fact, it became a problem. Cf. Jer 22:13-17; Hab 2:9-11

- Mark 10:17-31 [Matt 19:16-30; Luke 18:18-30] – 23, 25, life and attitude committed.
- Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-5:11 – (1) single-minded commitment to God demonstrated by frequent prayers and gatherings; (2) experience of Holy Spirit; (3) deep concern for one another (sharing of goods and meals).
- Paul – 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Eph 4:28 – (1) Christian way of life in radical discontinuity with the world; (2) Christian way of life one of suffering for others in specific situations; (3) suspicious of wealth unless it was being used in good works. → 2 Cor 8-9 – voluntary; from commitment to Jesus; impulse of Holy Spirit.
- Matt 22:37-39, cp. Luke 6:30; James 1:17

Can you add to these lists of inward and outward expressions of simplicity?

Inward Expressions (Foster)

- To receive what we have as a gift from God;

- To know that it is God's business and not ours to care for what we have;
- To have our goods available to others.

Outward Expressions (Foster 78-83)

- Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
- Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
- Develop a habit of giving things away.
- Refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry.
- Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
- Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation.
- Look with a healthy skepticism at all "buy now, pay later" schemes.
- Obey Jesus' instructions about plain, honest speech.
- Reject anything that will breed the oppression of others.
- Shun whatever would distract you from your main goal!