

Title: A life of simplicity
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Word

Simplicity in the first church

Acts 2:46-47 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Simplicity in Paul's life

2 Corinthians 1:12 (ESV)

For our boast is this: the testimony of our conscience that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.

what is simplicity?

Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

- the quality of being easy to understand or use.
- the state or quality of being plain or not fancy or complicated.
- something that is simple or ordinary but enjoyable.

Gr. haplotēs (hap-lot'-ace):

singleness, that is, (subjectively) sincerity (without dissimulation or self seeking), or (objectively) generosity (copious bestowal): - bountifulness, liberal (-ity), simplicity, singleness.

1. Right focus
2. Right motives
3. Right thoughts
4. Right actions

Simplicity in Christ

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 (NKJV)

² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The fall from simplicity

Genesis 3:1-8 (ESV)

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

How can you live in simplicity?

1. Focus on the goodness of God in Christ and on what He is focused on: **be thankful.**
2. Allow Him to purify your motives according to His will: **be holy.**
3. Trust Him with every thought and temptation: **be honest.**
4. Say no to that which distracts you from Him: **be obedient.**

Ministry

1. What is preventing you from having a singleness of focus?
2. What distractions do you need to say no to?
3. Make a commitment to live in simplicity throughout 2014.