**Sermon Notes**

**“Coming Into Focus”**

**Ephesians 5:1–2
1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

**What is Simplicity?**

Simplicity is the discipline of living with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. *Mark 4:18–19)*

**The Need for Simplicity**

We need to cultivate simplicity because…

…it allows us to avoid double-mindedness (James 1:8).

…our culture exalts a destructive idol of wealth and prosperity.

…God’s people were always warned about the temptations that come with having “more and bigger” (Deuteronomy 17:16-17).

…Jesus promised that the pure in heart will see God (Matthew 5:8).

…it’s possible to be led astray from one’s devotion to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).

…Satan desires to impede simplicity in our lives (2 Corinthians 11:3).

…part of a godly legacy and witness is to “behave in the world with simplicity… (2 Corinthians 1:12).

…the best things in life are free (Isaiah 55:1-2).

…you will never reach the bottom of your greed (Ecclesiastes 5:10).

…we are called to lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1-3).

**Practices of Simplicity**

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” Matthew 6:33*

1. Craft a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Start the day with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Develop the habit of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Enjoy things without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. Shun anything that distracts you from

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Questions for Discussion:

1. What aspect of this message did you find most compelling or personally relevant? Why?
2. Did this message stir up an issues that you need to commit more prayer to?
3. Why do you think simplicity is a discipline that needs to be practiced, rather than a one-time commitment?
4. Complete this sentence: “I need to cultivate simplicity in my life because…”
5. Complete this sentence: “If I do not cultivate simplicity in my life, 5 years from now…”
6. Which of the practices of simplicity do you think demands your priority and attention? What first or next steps could you take this week to follow-through on them?