

## SIMPLY LIVING

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### INTRODUCTION

Today we begin a new series entitled Simply Living. In September and October, we will address the Kingdom principles of living a simple lifestyle. October will be 'simplicity month' with a number of practical opportunities to turn principles into reality in our lives.

### WHAT IS SIMPLICITY AND WHY IS IT CENTRAL TO THE SPIRIT LIFE?

- 1) Creation is good – 'God saw all that he had made and it was very good.' (Gen 1:29).
- 2) Creation is given to making, to protect, to oversee and to bless – 'Then God said, "I give you *everything*..." (Gen 1:29-30) God created the earth for man to enjoy and therefore enjoying the earth and its fruits is good.

There is no place in biblical thinking for seeing it as more spiritual to deny oneself than to enjoy oneself; 'God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.' (1 Tim 6:17)

- 3) When we live centred on God and are pursuing Him, man can rule over creation and exercise supernatural dominion.

### THE FALL CHANGED EVERYTHING.

- 1) In turning away from God, man turned from worshiping the divine to worshiping self and the created order.

We descended from a higher spiritual life to a lower earthly nature

DIVINE ORDER	SATAN'S SCHEME
LOVE GOD	LOVE CREATION
LOVE EACH OTHER	LOVE SELF
BLESS, CARE, ENJOY CREATION	USE GOD
<b>FREEDOM</b>	<b>BONDAGE</b>

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

2) Two things we need to understand;

- a. We have a fallen/sinful nature that desires to pull us away from the spirit life.
- b. Satan is always playing on this sinful nature to pull us away from the spirit life.

3) Sinful nature opposes spirit life;

*'So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.'* (Gal 5:16-18).

*'Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation-but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him, we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.'* (Rom 8:12-17)

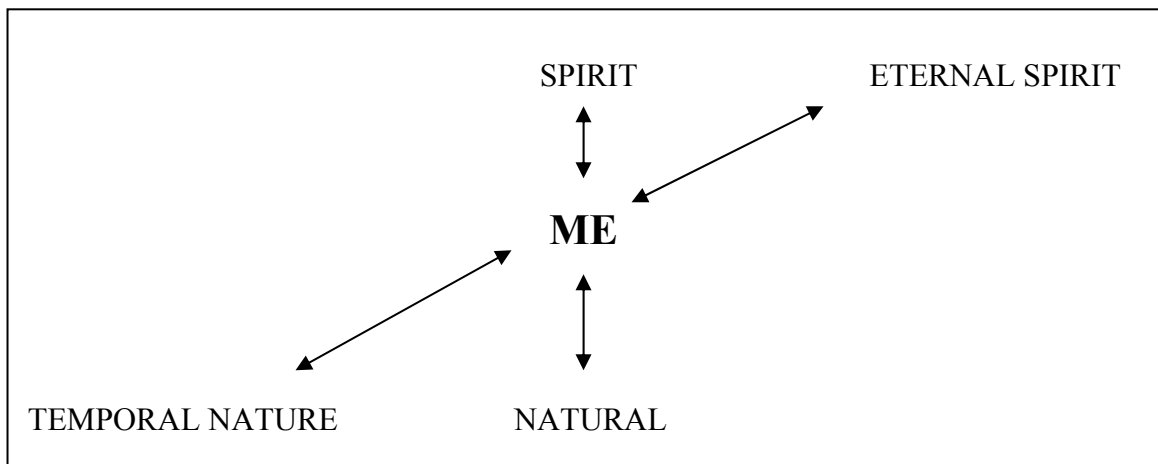
- a) The Vision
  - i) Verse 14 – To be led by the Spirit;
  - ii) Verse 15 – To experience the 'sonship of God';
  - iii) Verse 17 - To be heirs with Christ on this earth and in heaven

*'For if, by the trespass of one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.'* (Rom 5:17).

- b) However, there is a battle within us;
  - i) The sinful nature
    - o Our true nature is that we are Spirit-indwelt men and women – "I am a spirit with a soul living in a body"
  - ii) Our sinful nature is our attitude, desires, appetites that are in rebellion against God and that oppose the life of the spirit.
    - o The more we please the sinful nature – it will dampen, suppress, quench, deaden, frustrate, and resist the spirit's desires within us.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

c) The challenge we all face



## CONCLUSION

Living simply is NOT about rules or regulations, about what we spend our money on, how much we eat and whether we should buy this or that. Simplicity always begins in a heart that is free from being controlled by earthly things, because the heart is burning with the Spirit's desires.