

Introduction:

The Question: What's love got to do with simplifying your life?

The Answer: _____!

- Why?

1. Because anything minus love = _____.

Because everything minus love = _____.

2. Because it is our mis-belief about what our **performance**, **possessions**, and **provisions** can deliver that keep us doing the "Silicon Valley Shuffle."

3. Because you can only "do less" if you purpose to "_____ " more!"

Learning to love in "Real Time"

Situation #1: How does love respond to hurts?

- Truth: *Love is patient, love is kind . . .*

1 Corinthians 13:4a

- Practice: When you are hurt, wounded, rejected, or ignored, love "absorbs the blow (pillow) and returns a hug" (kindness).

Situation #2: How does love respond to differences?

- Truth: *Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

1 Corinthians 13:4b-5

- Practice: Love celebrates our differences! Love refuses to compare!

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

The Context: The Corinthian church had two major, unloving responses when it came to their differences:

1. Envy
2. Arrogance

The Principle: Comparison always leads to carnality.

- Envy – Compares _____ and produces jealousy, anger, resentment, and bitterness. (i.e. “the foot to the hand”)

1 Corinthians 12:15-16

- Arrogance – Compares _____ and produces pride, boasting, rudeness, and independence. (i.e. “the eye to the hand”)

1 Corinthians 12:21-22

- **We all struggle with envy and arrogance, but we tend to habitually fall into one camp more often than the other.**
 - The envious must believe that God is good and has sovereignly and wisely given them what is best for them and best to fulfill His purposes.
 - Admit, repent
 - Ask God to use you
 - Meditate on God's goodness, generosity
 - Choose gratitude and thankfulness
 - The arrogant must admit their need and choose to be vulnerable in order to receive the goodness of God in their daily experience.
 - Remember everything is given from God
 - Remember where you came from
 - Hang out with those who know where you came from – who you really are
 - Admit your needs

Discussion / Personal Application Questions:

1. What's love got to do with simplifying your life?
2. Share a time in the last week you were patient (pillow) and kind (hug) when someone hurt you.
3. How do you tend to compare yourself with others? Upward (envy) or downward (arrogance)?
4. How does understanding and digesting the reality of God's goodness help you to stop comparing and become more loving?