

First Peter

Keep It Simple (Week 4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

When we love deeply and serve simply, God is glorified and communities are transformed.

Key Scriptures

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.
Matthew 22:37-40

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:9-10

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:11

We need to stop complicating what Jesus sought to simplify.

Start talking.

- What are some funny ways you have complicated things that were meant to be simple?
- What is it about our human nature that seems to add layers of complexity to things?
- In what ways has the “Church” been guilty of adding layers of complexity to the simple message of the Gospel?

Start thinking.

- Read 1 Peter 4:8. How is this verse a summation of the ideas Peter is outlining in this letter?
- In what ways does love cover a multitude of sins?
- Read Matthew 22:37-40. How can those two commandments sum up all the Law and the Prophets?
- What are some of the good intentions behind adding layers of complexity to a connection with God?
- Why was Jesus adamant to simplifying things?
- Read 1 Peter 4:9-10. Hospitality is specifically directed toward embracing those outside your typical bubble. Why was that the first example Peter gave for “loving deeply”?
- Peter makes it clear that all of us have received a “gift”. Why were we given these gifts?
- Read 1 Peter 4:11. What is to be the ultimate goal of our loving deeply and serving simply?

Start sharing.

- How have you perhaps inadvertently complicated the Gospel?
- How does loving deeply and serving simply build a bridge to those that don’t believe?

Start doing.

- Who do you need to love deeply and serve simply?
- What is one “gift” you have? How can that be used this week to love deeply and serve others simply?

Closing prayer.

Jesus forgive me for the ways I am drawn to complicate what you gave your life to simplify. Renew in me a clear vision of loving others deeply and serving simply. Help me Lord to pull away the layers of complexity in my mind that end up keeping you at arms length and limiting me from loving and serving others. Give me eyes and ears to see the simple opportunities around me to love others for your glory.