

# Simplifying the Ministry or Home

## Part One

**(Psalm 116:6)** The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.

**(Psalm 119:130)** The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

### ***KISS***

There's an old saying "kiss" (keep it simple stupid / I prefer- keep it simple saint) that goes a long way in helping us to consider what and how we are doing things. In today's culture and the lifestyles of most people including believers and pastors there seems to be an overwhelming of things to do but not enough time to get them done. In fact there is a lot more going on today than fifty years ago, with the hours that people have to work, many times both husband and wife working just to make ends meet. Then there is the raising of children and church life with the involvement of ministries. The upkeep of the home the paying of bills and all the rest that one can think of or add to the list that can lead to having confusion, frustrations, tension in the home or church.

There are many times people's lives are disordered keeping them from living the life that God really wants them to live, enjoying the Lord, their families and the church. We put undue pressure sometimes upon ourselves and others mainly our family members that God has not given to us to handle. Many people are trapped in false guilt about not getting everything done. Sometimes we have undue responsibilities put on us from others, which we can't fulfill along with our God given responsibilities. There is a right time to say no to some things and yes to others, things that we know is God's will for our lives.

From experience I've found that life is full of adjustments and we need to constantly (Organize, Prioritize, Strategize and Harmonize) as the Lord helps us to do the right and best things for His glory. In the next few weeks by God's help I want to share these four things that may help us to KISS it a little better. Satan is out to get us distracted, discouraged and defeated and he works through a lot of business, guilt and confusion to attack us from all angles. The Lord desires that we have His peace as we live and serve Him until He comes or we go home to meet Him. With some simple things rearranged and put into order and perspective it can make a big difference in our lives, homes and churches.

**(John 14:27)** Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

**(Colossians 3:15)** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

May the Lord help us to look at these four things that can help us better simplify our lives and ministries. Please pray that the Lord would give wisdom in these thoughts.

Bro. Mickey  
SCM

# Simplifying the Ministry or Home

## Part Two

### Simplifying by Organizing

**(1 Corinthians 14:33)** For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Disorder and confusion is one of Satan's best tools for not letting churches do what they are called to do for God, could also be said for families. A church may be doing a lot of things and yet nothing is organized and everyone is confused about what the real purpose of the church is for their community and the world. They know that the world needs to be saved but their church is not seeing many come to know Christ personally on a regular basis because of no organized plan of carrying out the mission of the church.

In his book "Simple Church" Tom Rainer says this about simple churches, "The busyness and complexity of life makes simple a great commodity, something desired. Simple churches intuitively know this. And because they are consumed with the call to make disciples, they have implemented a simple design for church ministry. They have designed a simple process to reach and mature people. Thus, these churches are getting people's attention and commitment."

In most churches there's a push to do more in hopes that this will help grow their church. But much of this is done in a disorganized manner and really starts to hinder rather than help the church to grow. Much of making things simpler is just getting a hold of the things already being done in the church and organizing them or perhaps eliminating some to make things run smoother and more efficiently. I believe that our churches could be more used if we just help our people to simply become more like Christ. Believers need a simple process of becoming more like Jesus and then they will be willing to do what Jesus asks them to do. Usually there needs to be a relationship and fellowship before a servant-ship. How organized are we in helping our church in their relationship and fellowship of Christ to grow to the place of a servant of Jesus? Do you have an organized plan or just doing a lot of things and hope that something will work?

#### **Tips for organizing ministry and home:**

- Pastor or dad need to get organized – busyness is not necessarily organization, if you find that you can't get it all done then there's a need to get organized.
- A place for everything and everything in its place. A good saying but hard living and something that's an ongoing process for all of us.
- Church and family need to seek ways to make things organized and simpler for the overall good of their ministry and home.
- Put God, family and ministry in order to better manage time and control of days.
- Make time for prayer, Bible study, and ask God's help to organize all the rest.
- Organize time and things to work for you, not you working for them- take control.
- Arrange, categorize, classify and put into order the things that want you.

God help us to get organized or reorganized for His glory. God bless have a great week!  
Bro. Mickey - SCM

# Simplifying the Ministry or Home

## Part Three

### Simplifying by Prioritizing

**(Matthew 6:33)** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

There are many people that have so many things going on in their lives that they just can't seem to get anything done or rather the most important things to them done.

When we start organizing our lives according to God's plan and word, then we can see everything else in the right light of His will for our lives. Putting first things first can only come after we know where everything is, that's organization. Then we can begin to sort out what we need and use the most in our lives and what's most important and valued to us according to God's will.

What mainly concerns a person is where their priorities are, but this doesn't mean that they have them all in order of importance or according to the word of God. Most know that God is to be first place in our lives and then family, church, work (ministry) and then the list can go on from there. But how do we balance all of these in our daily lives so to please God and serve others? By prioritizing them from what we know is important to God and us. This doesn't mean that everything gets the same amount of time, but the right attention at the right time. The amount of time and attention will be determined by ones responsibilities, calling and work. Sometimes (most of the time) it will do us good to set down and seek the Lord's mind on organizing and prioritizing these things in our lives.

(Blog, IVCF 2013) "With so many things vying for our personal attention, pausing in our busyness to think through and set our priorities can be one of the most challenging tasks we do. But, even when circumstances outside our control dictate our season and schedule, it's really important to take ownership of our time in ways that honor God and us. And in fact, with some intentionality combined with practical tools, a busy season can actually be life-giving and meaningful."

It may be helpful to write our priorities out each day, week and year so that we might keep the main thing the main thing with God, family, church, ministry, friends, job, rest, pleasure and the list goes on. A little time spent organizing and prioritizing our lives, responsibilities and duties will help keep us focused and on track for getting things done that really matter to us and God. A list with our priorities can be beneficial for personal, church and family duties so we see what is most important in our lives and where we need to put our time and energies. It may take some practice, but you'll be glad that you started organizing and prioritizing your life the way God intended you to live. It can also give a sense of peace and freedom as well as lightning the load of all the things that we think are important, but isn't really to God, family or yourself. Make a list, keep focused.

God bless and have a great week with the Lord and family!  
Bro. Mickey - SCM

# Simplifying the Ministry or Home

## Part Four

### Simplifying by Strategizing

**(Proverbs 14:15)** The simple believeth every word: but the prudent *man* looketh well to his going.

**(Luke 14:28-32)** For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

The Lord expects His people to be prudent, hard working, organized, putting things into priority and then having a plan of action to get things done for His glory. Someone has said “plan your work and work your plan” this is wise counsel for those in the ministry and the home. When we think about strategizing, it means that we are planning, directing and managing our time, talents and energies for the best and glory of God.

To be strategic (a military term) in our lives means to be actively planning, calculating in a positive way with God to do His will, with a deliberate and intentional process in making the right choices and decisions in life. Simply said, have a plan and work your plan. In the ministry and home today many are just hoping that things will automatically turn out right without any planning on their part.

Some pastors and parents have just given up because things are not going the way that they had planned. Sometimes God has greater and better plans for our lives and we need to make sure that He is in control. We need to seek the Word of God in any plans that we are attempting to make and make sure that our plans are in line with His word as well as His timing and following the Holy Spirit.

Some ministries and families make plans in which they have not the gifts, talents or abilities nor leading from God to fulfill those plans. Remember that God wants to use us to bring out the best in us for His glory and to the good in serving others. How do we make strategizing a practical part of our lives?

- Get to work organizing the things pertaining to our lives. Cluttered lives and ministries have no plan or strategy.
- Make lists and start putting the most important things to be done in order of their priorities in life, family and ministry.
- Seek a good plan from the Lord to go about getting things done in a Spirit lead fashion that honors God and that works for you and your life.
- Remember that our plans sometimes need to be adjusted to fit the will of God as we grow older and wiser with the family and ministry.

God bless and have a great and godly week!

Bro. Mickey - SCM

# Simplifying the Ministry or Home

## Part Five

### Simplifying by Harmonizing

**(Psalm 133:1)** Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

One can be organized, have priorities in place, with a plan of action and yet not have harmony in the church or home. We need unity and harmony in our organization, priorities and plans to make them work for the best and God's glory. There seems to be a lot of organized disharmony in churches today. There may be many things going on in the church but no harmony of the members and ministries which frustrates the majority of the church and families. Remember satan is out to cause disharmony in our churches and families.

The idea of harmonizing has the meaning that something is out of balance and needs to be brought back into line. There may be things either in the ministry or in the family that are not coordinating together and need to be synchronized mutually. In the church as well as the home we need harmony in relationships and in doing the ministry. A lot of leaders don't take time to match people and their ministries together for the best use of their talents and abilities for service in their church. Sometimes families are not in harmony because of their perceived duties and dedication for the ministry. God is not the author of confusion in the church or home but of peace and harmony.

In his (Be Series) – NT, "WWW" says that there are three things that make for harmony in the church and I would say also in the home. They are, "Humility, Honesty and Forgiveness" which brings about unity and harmony. Also he says that humility always precedes honesty that can bring about forgiveness. I would totally agree whichever it is churches or the home one has to humble himself to be honest about seeking or giving forgiveness.

I see a trend in the pastorate in which the man (pastor) is truly giving his heart to the ministry, but his wife's heart is not there with him. The wife for whatever reason is not fully involved in the ministry with her husband on the same level. This can bring about a disharmony or dysfunction in the home that can show up and replicate in the church. May I suggest on working on bringing things back into line with God and the family to a place of harmony. This will involve balancing the needs of both the family and church with humility and honesty. There may be a need of seeking forgiveness and reconciling to get the harmony back, whether it is in the church or the home.

Humility, honesty and forgiveness are the ground work for harmony in the church and home that can bring about a sweet unity of spirit and love for each other. Please Lord help us to yield and submit to you all of our pride and selfishness. May our desire be to walk in the Spirit with a right attitude letting Him help us simplify our ministries and homes. Simplify this week by being Spirit filled seeking humility, honesty and forgiveness. Serve the Lord in gladness and have a blessed week.

Bro. Mickey - SCM