

Sunday Morning Message

September 30, 2018

Keep It Simple Stupid

Topic – Simple Faith

Text – 2 Corinthians 11:1 - 4

Congregational Reading – 2 Corinthians 11:1 - 4

Introduction

Illustrate – Conversation yesterday morning with the men at 6:00 AM prayer. We discussed how complicated things in our world have become:

Health Insurance – When Phil was born, I was able to pay cash for everything.

Taxation

Opening a business

Building Permits

The more populated our world gets, the more things get complicated. The harder everything is to do.

Our faith in Christ, our practice of worship, and our communication of the gospel can all get very complicated as well, but God does not want it to.

Read 2 Corinthians 11:1 – 4

Paul, Silas, and Timothy started the Church at Corinth on his second missionary journey, along with the help of Priscilla and Aquila. Paul had labored there for eighteen months, and then he moved on, eventually travelling to Ephesus where he would minister for three years. When Paul left Corinth, it was a solid church, but eventually problems crept in. Mainly these problems were caused by people who wanted to corrupt and complicate things. Paul was worried that this church would move away from the simplicity from which it had started.

Transition - There is an acronym that is credited to Kelly Johnson, a design engineer from Lockheed Martin. K*I*S*S – Keep It Simple Stupid. This morning, I want to remind all of us that when it comes to our relationship with the Lord, we need to Keep It Simple Stupid.

I The Gospel is Simple

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

The gospel or good news consists of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He died for our sins, was buried in the tomb for three days, and then rose from the dead, proving that He had complete power and authority over death.

It is our faith or belief in this simple gospel that saves us.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:9-10, 13)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:16-18)

It's that simple – don't complicate the gospel.

The first attack in the early church was an attack against the simplicity of the gospel. Paul dealt with this attack in his letter to the Galatians, and the Apostles dealt with this at the Jerusalem council. (See Acts 15:1 – 11)

These legalist travelled up to Galatia where Paul and Barnabas had just established a number of churches, and had complicated things up there. Paul wrote a very stern letter to the churches of Galatia, trying to get them back on track. (See Galatians 1:6 – 9; 2:16; 21; 3:1 – 3)

Don't complicate the message of salvation. Keep It Simple Stupid.

II The Great Commission is Simple

The Commission that Christ gives His churches is very simple as well.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Evangelize – Baptize – Stabilize

Win them – Wet them – Word them

Mark's Gospel simplified it even further:

*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
(Mark 16:15)*

Brother Bowen said that our job is to fulfill the Great Commission and then solve every problem that arises from fulfilling the Great Commission.

Illustrate – Brother Bowen's theory on starting a bus ministry.

Our job as Christians is simple. We are to get people saved, baptize them, and then get them into church so that we can teach them the Bible.

Let's Keep It Simple Stupid

III The Christian Life is Simple

Religion tends to complicate things.

Jesus summed up the entire Law of Moses into two things:

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

Judaism took these two main commandments and created a set of rules that were so strict that nobody could keep them all.

And then, some in the early church tried to get the Gentile converts to start following all of the commands in the Law of Moses. Peter said, why would we try to get the Gentiles to do something that we could never do. James said:

"Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day." (Acts 15:19-21)

Go back to what Jesus said. Any question or problem that you have in the Christian life can be solved by asking yourself two questions:

Is this going to help me to demonstrate my love for God?

Is this going to help me to love people?

Micah had a simple message for the people of Israel as well:

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8)

Illustrate - The rules at camp – Do right; Vision Baptist College

Conclusion – Let's not frustrate or complicate things. Let's keep it simple stupid.

The Message of Christ is Simple

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