

The Good Life

Matt VanCleave

April 21th, 2024

We would like your feedback!

Please answer this brief survey to help us provide you with a better small group experience!

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REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will complain to God about my problems and pain.
- I will pray prayers that are connected to what's going on inside of me.
- I will choose who to lean on with care.
- I will join a small group and develop relationships with people who will care for me in times of trouble.

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Matt discusses the pursuit of "the good life," commonly tied to success and appearance, prevalent within both secular and Christian worlds. Ignatius' story shows how noble acts for God bring true joy.

Pastor Matt contrasts this with Corinth's focus on wealth, status, and pleasure, illustrating Paul's humble lifestyle as a model for Jesus-like flourishing. He encourages engaging with 1 Corinthians to understand humility, love, and the transformative power of divine grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the story of Ignatius illustrate the difference between the world's pursuit of the good life and the Christian's pursuit of a meaningful life with God?

2. What characteristics of Corinth serve as a parallel to our current society, and what pressures do we face today that might lead to a misguided pursuit of the good life?

3. Why did Paul choose to live a low-status life in Corinth, despite his potential for high status, and how did that choice relate to his understanding of the good life?

4. How can we apply the teachings found in 1 Corinthians to our own lives in order to better pursue a meaningful life with God?

5. What role does grace play in the Christian's pursuit of the good life?

6. How does the story of Ignatius illustrate the difference between the world's pursuit of the good life and the Christian's pursuit of a meaningful life with God?

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

- Acts 18:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 15:9-10
- Acts 18:17

Next Steps

- I will begin reading 1 Corinthians.
- I will ask questions about what I read.
- I will talk with a friend about it.

- I will invite someone to join me in studying 1 Corinthians.
- I will pray about what God might teach me, or how he might change me.
- I will do some of the stuff Paul teaches.

Prayer Request(s)

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