

How to Mess Up the Abundant Life SESSION 3

INTRO

We're looking at four ways that we mess up the abundant life. Key text is John 10:10, where Jesus said: ***I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*** Jesus also said, ***...in the world you will have tribulation.*** So, we know that living the abundant life is not about living a problem-free life. In fact, we said – ***Your problems are not your problem. Your problem is how you react to your problems. That's your problem!***

PREVIOUSLY

One of the ways we mess up the abundant life is by: **Accumulating as Much Stuff as Possible.**

Last week, we said a 2nd way to mess up the abundant life was to **Dodge Difficulties at All Cost.**

We said that Dodging Difficulties at All Cost works against you by leading to: Discouragement, Awefulizing and Withdrawal. Instead, *leaning into difficulties* is very beneficial.

THIS WEEK A third way you and I can mess up the abundant life, is to:

#3 - MAKE LIFE _____

Starts at _____ Then, Terrible _____ s Tough _____ s

Then, **marriage**... James 4:1-3 says, What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

BUT – this is not who we're supposed to be as followers of Jesus, as Galatians 2:20 reminds us – I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

There are times for all of us when our self-centeredness comes out in big ways.



HERE ARE 7 ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE, TO STOP MAKING LIFE ALL ABOUT YOU –

1. **Start with** _____ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV

If there's never been a specific point in time where you've signed over the ownership and control of your life to Jesus, then this is the first and most important thing you need to do to experience the abundant life.



2. **Stay _____ to Jesus** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5, ESV
3. **Change your _____ source** If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11, ESV

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Galatians 5:16, 25-26, ESV
4. **Train your _____** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:5-6, ESV
5. **Practice _____** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:10

Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:4
 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled...he who humbles himself will be exalted. Lk 14:11

So, how do you practice humility? Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have will deliver us again. 2 Cor. 1:10
6. **Lead with _____** For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45, ESV

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14, ESV
7. **_____ forgiveness** And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34a, ESV

Table Discussion Questions

1. List some drawbacks from making life all about you.
2. What area of your life is it easy to make life all about you?
3. Which of the 7 actions (to keep life from being all about you) is the hardest for you?
4. Close by reading Phil. 2:13 and John 3:30. Then pray for one another to live these out this coming week.