

## Making Change Week 1- Less is More

This message series has the potential to impact your life significantly but it's one of the easiest topics to shake.

### **Less is More \* Stress is Bad \* Giving is Good \* Tomorrow Matters**

INTRO:

Object Lesson: Anyone ever eaten the candy Sprees?

- If one is good...two is better. Right?? One car or two cars, one dollar or two dollars.....
- I, like many of you, have been programmed to think more money, more clothes, more toys. More Stuff!
- Too much of a good thing can lead to the place where we are enslaved by the things we gain. We no longer own stuff, stuff owns us. "Materialism"
- When my finances are out of order then my life is out of order. We need God's money system. His system is built on what really matters.
- Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie in the garden: "More is always better.....What you don't have is what you need!"

### ***Ecclesiastes 4:6***

*Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.*

- Why is it better to have one hand full? Help, Give, Encourage....Less is More

Make a list of what matters most:

- We asked on social media this week. Not on anyone's list: cars, houses, clothes, countertops, Instagram followers, stuff.
- We got things like family, spouse, church, kids, relationships...people not things.
- Picture yourself with 3 months to live

***"Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the Creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else."***

***~ Charles Spurgeon***

### ***1 Peter 2:11-12 (MSG)***

*Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.*

- Earth is not our home, heaven is. Heaven has a different system. Our responses to "what really matters" points to the system of our true home. The problem is that many times what matters most to Heaven isn't reflected in our finances. Let's start with Less is More Living.

## LESS IS MORE LIVING

- **CUT BACK!**

Ex. THEN: Ever been in a house built around or before 1900? One closet in a bedroom for a few items.

NOW: Walk in closets, his and her closets, motorized closets, multi-level closets.... "I don't have anything to where."

- Closets, attics, garages, and storage units full of stuff
- Ever bought an item because you forgot you had one.
- 25% of Americans can't park in their garage and offsite storage facilities has been the fastest growing segment of commercial real estate for 4 decades

### ***Luke 12:15b (NIV)***

*"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."*

Less is More—**Life does not consist in the abundance of stuff!**

- Cut back on consumption and accumulation
- Not just in our heads but in our hearts

Less stuff—More Friends.

Less stuff—More time with family.

Less stuff—More experiences

- **CLEAR OUT!**

- To really be who God created us to be, we must learn to declutter physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Do this and it creates room for your soul to breathe.
- Excess things in your surroundings can have a negative impact on your ability to focus and process information. Concentration, Creativity, Rest.
- the average 10-year-old owns 238 toys but plays with just 12 daily
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REASONS: Difficult for so many

- Didn't grow up with much.
- Afraid you might need it—Sentimental.
- Overwhelmed with stuff because there are too many options: Movies—Restaurant Menus

TOOLS:

- Thank you for the purpose you served in my life: Gift/Book

- Get one—Give one!
- If you haven't worn it in a year
- Give away 100 items

My life does not consist in the abundance of my possessions!

- **CLEAN UP**

- Cleaning up debt, excess spending, organizing a budget
- No one says: "Debt helps me feel peace!" "Monthly credit card payment calms soul." "Owing people brings me joy!"
- Better have a smaller house—fight over who spent what.
- Better to have financial margin help others—live on the edge.

TOOLS:

- Focus- whatever you measure will grow. How much did you spend at Chick-fil-a this week?
- Don't spend more than you make
- Tithe/Give, Pay what you owe, Save

**CLOSING:**

- The richest people are not those who have the most—need the least!
- Amy and I have visited some of the poorest countries in the world and it challenges the materialism in us when we see the joy the people have that is not rooted in the stuff they possess.

ILLUST. Roll out the cart full of candy representing God's abundance.

**When I live the Less is More life, I become a steward of God's abundance. [1 Peter 2:12](#) Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.**

*We have one chance to get this right: Your life is too valuable, calling too great, your God is too good to waste your life on meaningless things.*

*Better is one handful...*

- *and children that you love*
- *and intimate friends*
- *and vacation memories*
- *and a good marriage*
- *and the ability to make a difference*
- *and passion for Jesus*

LIVE IT:

1. Complete and submit your *Making Change* card.
2. Pick one practical way you will live the *Less is More* life this week.