

CITYWEST CHURCH

02.11.2025 - 10 AM

LESS IS MORE.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. **25** If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. **26** And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? [1] Is anything worth more than your soul? **27** For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. **28** And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom.”

Matt 16:24-28 (NLT)

You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is beneficial. **24** Don’t be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (NLT)

Ok church, this is going to be a one-off message, that i pray and hope will help you recalibrate as we sit on the edge of the busy time of the year.

The allure of options has fragmented our world. Think of how many types of milk you can get these days, although these options, when it comes to milk, it can be a little more challenging as we come to bigger decisions in our lives.

We are spoiled for choice and drowning in options, but when we take inventory of our souls, we find ourselves thirsty and just hoping for one thing.

Our modern world has conditioned us that if we just add one more thing, our life will be happy, we will be fulfilled, and everything will be great, but as we do, we end up feeling torn in all different directions.

As we come to the scriptures, we see not the addition of more, but a revealing of what really matters, the purpose that God has for our lives.

A monastery is not the answer; living life requires us to do multiple things, even Jesus did that. It's not just about one thing; it's about having one vision.

Discipleship isn't just about developing better habits; it's also about having a clearer vision.

As we mature in our faith, we don't try to add more; in some ways, we need to chip away at what we have added to reveal what God has planned.

With that said:

Let's come back to the scriptures and look at some points

1. ZEROING IN

Following Jesus isn't about doing more; it's about doing what matters most.

*When we take up our cross, we narrow our focus from many things to one thing: **God's will.***

The cross simplifies our direction—less distraction, more devotion.

“When you stop trying to be everything, you start becoming who God made you to be.”

“The one thing I ask of the Lord—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.”

Psalm 27:4 (NLT)

David models a heart narrowed down to one pursuit: God's presence and purpose.

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,^[d] but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:12–14 (NLT)

Paul shows that maturity in Christ means focusing, not scattering—pressing on toward one clear goal.

2. THE WISDOM OF DISCERNMENT

Freedom in Christ comes with wisdom.

We may be free to do many things, but maturity teaches us that not all things help us grow.

Spiritual discernment is knowing what to walk away from so you can walk closer with God.

“At some point, mature Christianity isn’t an adding of more, but a removing of what doesn’t matter—to reveal God’s purpose for our lives.”

“Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Don’t get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.”

Proverbs 4:25–27 (NLT)

Wisdom calls us to stay focused and avoid what distracts or delays us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that faith requires shedding what weighs us down so we can run freely.

3. A MASTERPIECE OF GRACE.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

You are not a blank canvas; you are God's artwork, redeemed and restored through Christ.

Sin hides the beauty of God's design, but grace reveals it.

*Like a sculptor removing stone, God's Spirit isn't adding more—He's **revealing who you already are in Christ.***

"The goal of maturity isn't to become something new—it's to become who you truly are in Christ."

And yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.

Isaiah 64:8 (NLT)

We are not a blank canvas.

We are a masterpiece waiting to be revealed in Christ.

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, **20** for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

1 Cor 6:19-20 (NLT)

The masterpiece is revealed as we chip away the life that we live, and pick up the cross Jesus has for us.

As we stop falling for the trap of more and start looking for who Jesus has made us to be, and press into that.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

How can we bring that same *one vision* into the different parts of our daily lives (work, family, relationships) without becoming scattered or overwhelmed?

How do you practice discernment in saying “no” to what isn’t essential?

What is one area where God might be “chipping away” in your life—not to add more, but to reveal who you truly are in Christ?