

# **SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE (5)**

## **THE DEVOTED LIFE**

### **Message Notes**

Theme for 2015: Simplicity

**2 Cor. 11:3**, *"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the **simplicity** that is in Christ"* (NKJV)

In the NIV the word "simplicity" is translated as "sincere and pure devotion."

*"But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your **sincere and pure devotion** to Christ"* (NIV)

**Devotion (Gk):** *"To continue to do something with intense effort despite difficulty and to stay in a fixed direction"* (persistence, endurance and remaining firm)

That's a great definition of the devoted life!

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The first century church began with believers' living lives that were totally devoted:

Text: Acts 2:42-47

#### **1. Devoted to the apostles' teaching**

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I.e. they continued in the Word of God with intense effort despite difficulty. They were persistent and remained firm in learning the Scriptures, applying them to their lives and instructing others in its truth.

*"Go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19-20)

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*2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*

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## **2. Devoted to THE fellowship**

Greek: *Koinonia* is a noun NOT a verb

I.e. they devoted themselves to THE community of believers. They continued in THE fellowship with intense effort despite difficulty. They were persistent and remained firm in THE fellowship and devoted themselves to expressing Christian friendship to one another.

*Acts 2:44, 46, "All the believers were together and had everything in common...everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts"*

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See also Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 16:15-16

## **3. Devoted to the breaking of bread**

Acts 2:46, "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts" (and "*in the temple courts*" Vs. 46)

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Acts 5:42, "*Day after day, in the temple courts AND from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.*"

I.e. they devoted themselves to eating together as a community of believers in order to tangibly express Christian friendship and to remember together that Jesus was at the centre of their lives.

Resources. Let's party series

<http://baysidechurch.com.au/category/lets-party/>

#### **4. Devoted to Prayer**

I.e. they continued in prayer with intense effort despite difficulty. They were persistent and remained firm in regular prayer in large & small groups as well as privately

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Colossians 4:2, "**Devote** yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

#### **5. Devoted to generosity**

Acts 2:44, 46, "*All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need*"

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Luke 16:13, "*No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be **devoted** to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon.*"

## Mammon

Originally, the word Mammon came from the ancient Chaldeans (The people group that Abraham came from) and actually has its roots in the word 'confidence.'

(Aramaic – mammānās) = to trust in treasure or to have our confidence in our material wealth.

Jesus personifies mammon by contrasting it with God. That is, you cannot be devoted to the True God and also be devoted to “the god of riches” (One of the strongest demonic spirits)

That’s why First Fruits is such a powerful thing. It is a freewill act by which we declare that our trust, confidence and devotion are securely in God and NOT in material wealth. We do this to break the spirit of mammon that so easily ensnares us...

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