

How to Live the Rest of Your Life (May 27 – June 2, 2018)

“Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable.”

- Sydney Harris, American Journalist

“There is nothing so fatal to character as half-finished tasks.”

- David Lloyd George

Answer and discuss the following question with your group.

1. Do you have a bucket list? What is on it? Have you completed any items on your list? Why do we tend to procrastinate doing the things on our bucket list?

Read the following excerpt aloud or watch message segment #1.

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, “How to Live the Rest of Your Life”.

We have to ask ourselves questions like, “Are we jealous people?” “Are we taking things that don’t belong to us?” “Are we patient and kind when we interact with others?” “Do we mind our temper?” “Do we look for ways serve others without being asked?” “Do we forgive and seek reconciliation?” According to 1 Corinthians, this is the definition of how to “love” your neighbor.

See, we can make this pretty simple. No need to complicate things. No need to try and remember a bunch of do’s and don’ts. Let’s cut to the chase! We are called – commanded – to take care of the people around us with a love that is kind, patient, without envy, etc.

Refer to the following scriptures and answer/discuss the following questions.

Romans 13:8-10, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Matthew 22:34-40

2. Why do you think Paul calls love for others a debt?
3. What does “Love your neighbor as yourself,” mean to you?
4. Focusing on love turns the law into a positive command (do) versus a list of negative commands (do nots). Do you feel this is more compelling? In what way?

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5. What relationship exists between keeping a record of wrongs and focusing on the negative aspects of the law?

Read the following excerpt aloud or watch message segment #2.

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, "How to Live the Rest of Your Life".

We read a goodnight book in our house that is titled "Someday is not a day of the week." It is a little passive-aggressive for my taste, about a little boy who wants to play catch and go fishing and read books but his parents and grandparents keep telling him, "Someday". I hate it, but I love it. It is a good reminder that "Someday" is a big enemy of right living. "Someday" I am going to get serious about God. "Someday" I am going to be baptized. "Someday" I'll quit being jealous, I'll get my temper under control, I'll forgive. "Someday". "Someday" I'll love my neighbor.

Friends, someday is not a day of the week.

Refer to the following scriptures and answer/discuss the following questions.

Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

6. What do you think Paul meant when he said, "The hour has come?" (v 11).
7. How do we clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ? (v 14).
8. How does clothing ourselves in Christ help us resist the desires of our sin-prone human nature?

Reflection and Wrap-up

9. How will thinking about love, and the positive spin it has on the law, affect your daily walk? How will it invoke more action and less judgement?

Pray Together as a Group

Additional Study:

- John 13:33-34
- Galatians 5:13-14
- Colossians 3:12-14
- Matthew 19:16-19