

Living with Limits

Living with the Chains of Life

Life is capricious and unfair. As the saying goes, the good die young, the rich get richer, the poor get poorer, and in the end the one with the most toys is still dead. Cynicism? Or just reality? In the cold hard light of day, the truth is that all of us one day discover that life brings limits that we can't get around ... in the end, if we're lucky enough, we'll live until we get old. And that is the ultimate limit. But there's one question most of us never get around to asking until it's too late: What difference will our life make in the scope of eternity? With a shift in perspective, the answer could surprise you.

Philemon 1:8–16

1. Reality Check: Everyone has _____ limits.
2. God created you to make an _____.
3. The purpose of every disciple's life is to _____
_____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'm ready to take to lead Directions Disciple Course.
- I'll engage in evangelism/church growth. Sign me up for 101 Things chapters and I'll take 'em for a test drive.
- I'll be more intentional in my investment in eternal results.

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Living with Limits: Living with the Chains of Life

Scripture: Philemon 1:8–16

Introduction: Onesimus was a slave. His life's outlook was limited by his bondage. Paul started out as a well-regarded and wealthy Pharisee. His life's outlook was good – until he became a Christian and ended up a Roman prisoner in chains. His life too was limited by his bondage. We all have limits. Some of us start out with them, others discover them as they go, and others end up with them. No matter who we are, our life has limits, and limits frustrate our hopes. But perhaps our hopes are misplaced. In the scope of eternity, does it really matter if we can't be an astronaut or the President of the United States? Perhaps there's something we're missing.

1. What are some of the external limits that you've had to deal with? How have you coped with those limits?
2. What are some of the responses people have when they discover they're faced with life's limits?
3. Read Philemon 1:8–11. What limits did Paul and Onesimus face in their respective lives?
4. Read 12–16. Although Paul admits that Onesimus is still a slave, what kind of relationship does he suggest Philemon and Onesimus should have? What are the implications of this "new" relationship?
5. Dr. Bill said that God created us to make an eternal difference. How do external limitations get in the way of that? How are they irrelevant to that?
6. – – – – – X – – – – – X –>
What are you doing HERE to make a difference HERE?
7. What do you think it means to leverage your job (or however you spend your time) in order to make an eternal difference?

Next Week: Power House – Being the Chief Cheerleader

Who will you be inviting to worship with you this week?