



## Mennonite Value #3: Community & Family

**1 Peter 4:8-10**  
**Matthew 19:23**  
**1 Corinthians 11:26**

There is always room for \_\_\_\_\_ at the table.

### Introduction: From Pitchforks to Podcasts (Our Roots)

#### Buying In vs. Buying Out

**Matthew 5:14-15**  
**Romans 12:1-2**

Both of these approaches to living as a Christ Follower are not an \_\_\_\_\_.

*A Third Way... Transformation!*

#### Mennonite Value #1: Simplicity

**Luke 12:32-34**  
**Matthew 19:23**

Intentional Simplicity frees us up to be more \_\_\_\_\_.

#### MONDAY MORNING APPLICATIONS

1. Determine out how much you are spending and giving away each month. Make it a monthly challenge to decrease the spending amount and increase the giving column.
2. Take an Inventory of your possessions – and ask yourself if their use enhances or detracts from relationships. Consider selling some of your possessions and donating the funds to local benevolence agency.
3. Try not to buy something you did not intentionally leave your home to buy. In other words, only seek out and purchase what you feel the lack of, not what catches your eye while you happen to be in the mall.

#### Mennonite Value #2: Peacemaking

**Luke 6:27-28**  
**Isaiah 58:6-7**  
**Matthew 5:9**

**Shalom:** Universal flourishing, well being, wholeness and delight. The way that things \_\_\_\_\_.

#### MONDAY MORNING APPLICATIONS

1. Contact your Lead Pastor or a local benevolence agency to find out how you can leverage your time and talents in volunteerism locally or globally.
2. If you can't sacrifice as much time as the Mennonites because of your money-making job, then since you have turned that time into money, give more money away to peace making organizations.  
 Use [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org) as a resource (Mennonite Central Committee).

### Conclusion: Back to the Soil!

Planting, Growing and Thriving

**Luke 13:18-20**

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged you.
2. Just for Fun: In your opinion, what would be the best and worst part of living in the manner of the Old Order Mennonite or Amish cultures?

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Take some time to read the parable of the Sower in **Mark 4:1-20**. a) Did any verse in particular stand out to you or perplex you? b) What do you think Jesus means in **verse 9** when he says "*He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*" c) How could Satan take away "*the word that was sown*" in **verse 15**? d) What does it mean to have no root according to **verse 17**? e) Discuss what the thorns represent in **verses 18 and 19**. f) What do you think the bountiful crop in **verse 20** represents? In what way is this parable a relevant message for Christ Followers in our culture?

#### SO WHAT?...

4. Discuss the following quote by Brian Walsh. "*I feel, and I suspect that most of us feel, a gap in our lives: a gap between our worldview and our way of life. Or to put this in more biblical terms, most of us sense a gap between our conscious commitment to Jesus Christ and the way we live out our lives.*" A) What do you think of the quote? B) Do you agree with Brian or have you had a different experience? C) What could some of the gaps be between our conscious commitment to Jesus and the way that we live out our lives? D) As a Christ Follower, what do you personally consider to be the most challenging part of trying to live out Jesus' teaching in our culture? E) How could Home Church be a place of support and encouragement for us in these areas? Try to be as specific as possible.
5. Reviewing the notes under Simplicity, Peacemaking and Community, are there some practical things that we could do to apply this principals to our Home Church? Discuss each section and make specific action steps if appropriate.

#### HOMEWORK...

6. Review the first application under Mennonite Value #3. Consider organizing a community meal and time of communion in the weeks ahead.

*Paul Morris @ The Meeting House – July 2<sup>nd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> 2006*