

# Simple



REDEEMER PAMPA

## WHY?

Since there's not a definitive passage in scripture that says, "Thou shalt be simple," we want to take the time to explain why simplicity is important to us at Redeemer Pampa. Being simple does NOT mean cheap, it does NOT mean lazy and it certainly does NOT imply a lack of planning or thought. When we say we will be simple, we mean that we will BEGIN at a place that is as close to the New Testament example of church as we can get and THEN we will adapt ourselves to meet the needs of our body and our community, provided that the ways we meet those needs do not cause us to stray from being Gospel Centered and Missional.

## In case you're not convinced:

Let's face it, when most of us think of "church," we think of Sunday School, VBS, buildings, ice cream socials, pews, suits and ties, choirs, and on and on. Sure, we are aware that the church isn't a building or a program, it's God's called out people, but sometimes the simplicity of that leaves us a little...uncomfortable. The root here is that we want to trust in GOD and His Spirit for what happens at Redeemer Pampa. We refuse to let our needs for control and polished perfection dictate who we are and what we do.

## Obedience over activity:

Imagine yourself as a parent, whose child has very messy room. You ask him to please clean his room. A few hours later, he comes to you and says, "I colored a really great picture for you and I rearranged all the dishes in the kitchen. I walked the dogs and trimmed my fingernails. Can I go play now?" Of course your answer would be, "No, you didn't clean your room." None of the extra things he did were wrong, in and of themselves, but it was obedience you wanted. Not activity. This same scenario plays out in our churches, and in our lives for that matter. It's easier for us to DO than to BE. The calling of God to obey Him, to follow Him, and to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading can be difficult sometimes. It requires patience and perseverance to develop a consistent devotional life. Sharing our faith and living on mission is not a clear-cut system. We prefer to show up for something that's pre-scheduled and planned where someone tells us what to do to serve Jesus, and then we can go on with the rest of our day. We are committed to make decisions on what we do at Redeemer Pampa through this filter: is this obedience or is this just activity. Sometimes this means that there are good things that we won't do in order to make sure we are giving our attention to what God wants us to do. One practical way this plays out is that we don't (and won't) have lots of weekly activities. We do not believe that weekly activities are bad, but we do believe that the people of God living missionally in their neighborhoods around people who don't know Jesus is obedience and we don't want to hinder that.

## The Al Qaida factor:

Have you ever wondered what it is about Al Qaida that has made them so difficult for the most technologically equipped military that has ever existed to catch? The answer is simple. They are not an institution. They are loose knit, adaptive, and quick moving. They are not solely dependent on any one man but they share a common belief: that they are called by their god to wage war on the unbelievers. We can take a page from their playbook and remain adaptive and quick moving, not institutionalized, so that we can effectively wage PEACE on the world. (Illustration from Total Church by Chester and Timmis)

## For reflection:

Take some time to think about the ways you might have allowed activity to trump obedience in your walk with God. How can you apply the principle of Obedience Over Activity to your life?

## For further reading/study:

### Scripture:

Acts 2:42-47  
Isaiah 61: 1-3  
Luke 10:1-9  
John 2:1-11

### Books/Articles:

*Total Church* by Timmis and Chester  
*Radical Together* by David Platt