

MARGIN: THE GIFT THAT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE YOURSELF

MARGIN: A Definition

- ✓ The space between our **LIMIT** and our **LOAD**
- ✓ The Big 3: **TIME, MONEY, RELATIONSHIPS**

MARGIN: 3 Assumptions

John 10:10 & Matthew 11:28-29/ 1 Peter 5:6-7, Exodus 16:4-16 & 1 Corinthians 10:13

- (1) Jesus doesn't want us **STRESSED OUT**.
- (2) In *most* cases margin is a **CHOICE**.
- (3) The secret to margin is learning to **SAY, "NO"**.

THE GRINCHES THAT STEAL MARGIN

(1) **PEOPLE PLEASING**

*The Grinch that steals our **Time Margins***

Proverbs 29:25 & 1 Thessalonians 2:4/ Philippians 2:3-5 & Mark 1:29-39

(2) **PRETENDING**

*The Grinch that steals our **Financial Margins***

Proverbs 12:9/ Proverbs 13:7/ Proverbs 21:20

(3) **THE NEED TO SUCCEED**

*The Grinch that steals our **Relational Margins***

Ecclesiastes 4:4/ Exodus 34:21/ Mark 2:27/ Proverbs 17:1/ 1 Peter 2:9

Food for Thought for the week of December 16, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Living without margin in our lives can be the direct result of a lack of contentment with our current life situation, or dissatisfaction with what we have. How could the following passages help you gain a different perspective on material possessions and our striving for more?

Ecclesiastes 5:10-12 - (NIV) - ¹⁰Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless. ¹¹As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them? ¹²The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 - (NIV) - I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. ²"Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" ³I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives. ⁴I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. ⁷I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem^[a] as well—the delights of a man's heart. ⁹I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. ¹⁰I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. ¹¹Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

1 John 2:15-17 - (NIV) - ¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

2. Larry mentioned three "grinches" that can steal margin. Take a moment to review each of them and then jot down any examples of where you think they might be showing up in your life.

3. In this weekend's message, we heard that in order to know what we're supposed to say "no" to, we should first figure out what we must say "yes" to. The following questions can help us figure out where we should be saying "yes" and "no." Take a couple minutes to write down your initial answers to each of these questions.

What do I have to do? (Obligation)

What do I want to do? (Vision)

What do I love to do? (Passion)

What do I hate to do? (Drain)

What do I think God wants me to do? (God's Will)