

Essential 6: Generous Living



"If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."
Mark 9:35

Life in Christ is sacrificial. It is a life of giving oneself to others in Jesus' name. God has blessed every believer with gifts, talents, energy, time and resources - and calls every believer to be open handed with each. A sacrificial life happens when we serve others and give with a joyful heart. Jesus himself came to serve, setting the ultimate example. We follow that example and teach those who follow us to give and serve. This is a lifelong path realizing that we were created to live generously for the glory of God.

How will I give?

One of the most effective ways to fuel affection for God is to give your resources in obedience to God. Jesus tells us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. The Apostle Paul tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. Giving intentionally, generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully fuels selfless love for God that overcomes selfish desires for the things of this world. Knowing this, it is important for Christians to look inwardly and ask the hard questions: What do I truly treasure? Are you giving money intentionally, generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully to God?

How will I serve at Carmel?

As you look across the church as a whole and your DC in particular, consider what things you can do to build up the body of Christ and what you will do to make sure that you have people who are watching out for your life in Christ. Identify specific ways that you will clearly express the love of Christ in and through the church. Ask yourself the following questions: What areas of the church can my gifts be utilized? What ministries am I interested in? If you want to know more about serving at Carmel, talk to one of our pastors and find out where you can help.