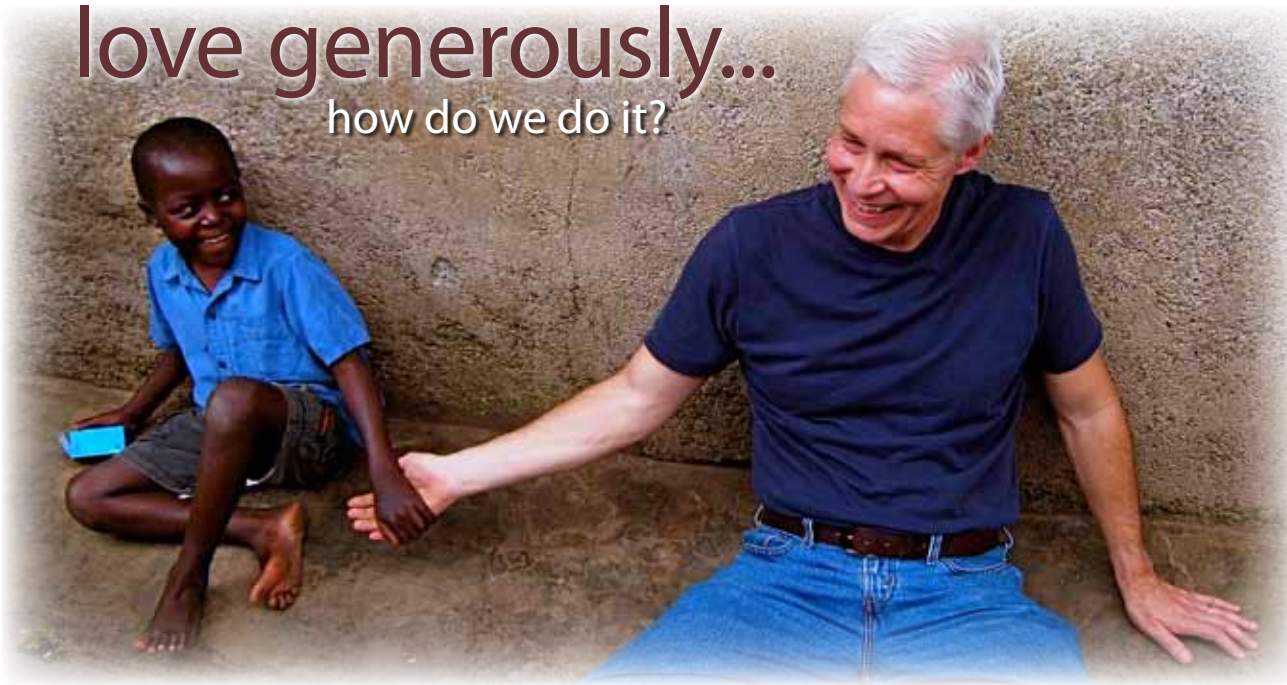


love generously...

how do we do it?



By living simply, we will naturally want to support the ministries of FPC, which in turn helps spread the abundant love of Jesus Christ. Through your tithes and offerings, you love generously by contributing to and taking part in our ministries and outreach, and the following things happen:

- You express your love for God by glorifying Him in everything you do (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- You find true abundance that transpires from contributing to the wellbeing of others (Tim. 6:17-19)
- You discover a personal, lifelong purpose because you are never closer to Jesus than when you are serving the needs of people (Matt. 25:35-40)

how about you?

- How do you express your love for God?
- Have you found true abundance that results from contributing to the wellbeing of others?
- Does your personal, lifelong purpose bring you closer to Jesus?

three simple questions do I want to...

reach out to my neighbors here and around the world with the love of Christ?

deepen my faith in Jesus Christ?

see God at work in my life and in the world?

...and the one simple answer is hopefully, YES!

"Command those who are rich in this world... to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

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Live Simply
Love Generously



how do I
live simply
and
spread the love
of Jesus Christ?



“live simply love generously”

We want to challenge ourselves to focus on the most important things: to love God with all our hearts, and to love each other as we love ourselves. One of the best ways that we can begin to meet this challenge is by *Living Simply*.



live simply what does it mean?

Too often in this complex, fast-paced world even Christians fall into the trap of too much buying, spending, shopping, and consuming. This leaves us without the energy to focus on eternal things in all areas of our lives: health, finances, job, marriage, family, etc. Living simply means that we change our focus from living for this world to living for Him. Living simply doesn't imply that there will be less joy in our lives—quite the contrary! By focusing on the simple things, we are doing God's will and are blessed by knowing Him.



it's simple

By living simply, we take our focus off of temporary things and re-direct it to eternal things. Temporary thinking can bring fear, disappointment, worry, anxiety, and stress. When we live simply, we align ourselves with eternal things like faith, love, hope, and the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25).

As Christians, we can start living simply in a number of ways. One straightforward but important way is putting the biblically based “10/10/80 principle” into practice:

give the first 10 percent of your income to God (Malachi 3:10, I Cor. 16:1-3)

save the next 10 percent (Genesis 41, Proverbs 6:6-8)

live on the remaining 80 percent (Hebrews 13:5-6, Matt. 6:19-21, 24-34)

action steps to help us live simply... love generously

pray

First...Pray! Ask God for His help and guidance for you and your family as you strive to Live Simply, Love Generously.

nurture gratitude

Nurture an attitude of gratitude. Make a list of the things you already have for which you are grateful.

write a budget

Write a realistic budget using the 10/10/80 principle. You do not honor God when you live beyond your means.

engage in giving

Engage in planned giving to God. Fill out a pledge card and remain faithful to that amount.

be generous

Be generous with your time, talents, and resources. Outreach, especially to those in need, is one of the greatest expressions of God's love.



how about you?

- Are you working toward the goal of dedicating the first 10% of your income to God?
- Are you saving 10% of your income?
- Have you adjusted your lifestyle to live within 80% of your income?