

The Art of SELFISH living – The Cycle of Greed –

(physically, emotionally, and spiritually) Why we don't give our lives away.

1. We are born with human **needs**. Air, water, food, shelter, and love.
2. We cannot meet our own needs at birth. We are programmed to take. We cannot **differentiate** between needs and wants.
3. When we **perceive** that others have stopped meeting our needs, we find a way to survive and self-serve our basic needs. From infancy, to teen, to adult.
4. Without healthy boundaries taught to us, we learn **greed** and pursue what we want, whether we need it or not.
5. We can subconsciously or intentionally blur the lines between needs and wants so we can **justify** getting more than we need. This can become habitual.
6. We often give to others because of the way it makes us **feel** about ourselves, thus becoming self-serving to meet our own needs internally. Even our giving can be selfish.
7. When we **enable** those around us who demand things they don't really need, they praise us. Both parties are selfishly motivated.
8. When we receive something from someone else who is not **obligated** to do so, and who has given with zero **expectations** of anything in return, we get a revelation of how to truly give.
9. When we get the **revelation**, we make small daily choices.
10. When we are part of a giving family or **community**, we learn to live out a cycle of unselfish lives. Someone must start the cycle of giving, and break the cycle of selfish living.

If most individuals are selfish, society as a whole feels entitled, rarely thankful and never satisfied.

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

1 Tim 5:8 - Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

2 Timothy 3:2-4 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

1 John 3:17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Gal 6:2 - Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load.

James 3:16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

Luke 9:23 If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

1 John 2:15-16 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Luke 12:18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’” ²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’” ²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Matt 10:21 - Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, “One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

²² But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

Neglect a baby and watch it grow up selfish...here's why

1. It learns to self medicate
2. It learns that boundaries don't matter

Harvard University did a study on the "science of neglect".

Here's what they discovered:

1. "Serve and return" is a built in mechanism for survival. It cries, you feed / you change diaper
 2. a child senses a biological danger when human interaction is absent. It lives in fear – no holding, singing, playing / no security / no value / no self worth
 3. Failure to thrive is created in a lack of proper height and weight gain
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When a Church does not produce healthy disciples, the Spiritual babies live in fear because they were neglected. They do not mature or reproduce.

Some Christians become anemic or eccentric spiritually. They are critical, selfish, often doctrinal extremists.

1. **Some believers** self impose this condition when they refuse community

In small groups.

2. **Some churches** don't address or prioritize real "felt" needs of people and thus neglect the newborn babes in Christ.

3. **Spiritual Neglect** is just as dangerous as a physical infants neglect.
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The Remedy - have personal devotions, commit to a mentor and a small group.

The Result - Churches that give and invest to build up other churches / ministries.

Online Survey –

Your friend has just broken up with their partner and is really upset. They confide in you about what went wrong. How do you react?

- You listen to everything they have to say and comfort them.
- You try to give them some advice by relaying your own experiences.
- You tell them how deeply upset you are also, you really liked their partner and now you won't be able to see them.

You're on the plane sitting comfortably in an aisle seat. A family who have been assigned separate seats from each other ask you if you would swap with one of them, so they can sit together. This means you are now in a middle seat. What do you do?

- Give up your seat.
- Talk to the flight attendants first to see if they can place you somewhere better and if so, then give up your seat.
- Refuse to give up your seat, it's their problem.

Your sibling has forgotten Mother's Day. What do you do?

- Buy a card and gift from the both of you so your Mum is none the wiser.
- Call/text them to let them know they've forgotten but let them scramble to sort out their own present.
- Tell your Mum your sibling forgot so that you are seen as the best child.

Your best friend is getting married, what are you most excited about?

- Seeing them getting married to the love of their life!
- The party!
- How good you're gonna look in white!

Your friends are having a party, what do you turn up with?

- Nothing, there'll be plenty to eat and drink there.
- I'll only bring something if they need me to.
- I bring booze/snacks or a nice gesture just to say thanks for hosting, EVEN if they said not to bring anything.

Your mum is visibly tired and complains that she feels a little ill while making dinner. What do you do?

- Take over cooking and send her to bed.
- Give her your sympathies but continue to let her cook (it's enchilada night!).
- Continue to let her cook and remind her repeatedly to wash her hands so she does not infect the food.

You're eating some sweets when you notice the little kid next to you on the bus is staring at the packet longingly. What do you do?

- Offer the kid a sweet.
- Continue to eat your sweets, the kid can get their own!
- Put the packet away quickly, you don't want to have to share, but you don't want the guilt of the kid watching you.

Your partner really REALLY wants to go see a new musical that's just come out. Their birthday is coming up, what do you do?

- Buy them tickets for their birthday and go with them, even though you'll hate it.
 - Buy them one ticket so they can go on their own.
 - Buy the tickets to a football game, you love football and they'll learn to love it too!
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You are often accused of being self-centered.

- true false

While you are typically shy to ask for something you personally need, you have no problem with asking for what others need.

- true false

You find it difficult to say "No".

- true false

Whenever you see someone in distress, you try to comfort them or look for ways to help them.

- true false

You enjoy pleasing yourself more than pleasing others.

- true
 false

Your goal is to be as useful as you possibly can.

- true
 false

You prioritize needs of others over your own.

- true
 false

Going out of your way for others doesn't feel natural to you.

- true
 false

You help others without seeking a reward or recognition.

- true
 false