

THE MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP

PERSONAL EVALUATION

What best describes what you think the word "stewardship" means?

- ☐ How you help to pay for the church's budget
- ☐ The way you think about what your financial contribution
- ☐ A central activity of Christian Discipleship
- ☐ What you do with your God-given gifts/talents
- ☐ The general conduct of a Christian

THE MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP

Matthew 25:14-30

What does that mean?

1. Stewardship **does not** mean a capital campaign to raise money for church expansion.
2. Stewardship **does not** mean a series of sermons on why members ought to make financial pledges and increase their giving to the church.
3. Stewardship **is not** about the amount of the weekly offerings or how much you personally give.

✓ A Steward plans manages and administers.

✓ Stewardship is “the act of being a manager or a caretaker.”



The Basis of Biblical Stewardship

Ex. 19:5; Psalm 24:1;
Psalm 50:10; Haggai 2:8

- **Stewardship** should be personally and corporately exercised by the Church.
- Stewardship is based on the foundation of God as Creator. God created all that exists, whether visible, invisible, material, immaterial, temporal, or everlasting (Col. 1:15-17). The power, knowledge, presence, and goodness necessary to create everything out of nothing establishes God as supreme.
- Because God is the one Creator, Sustainer, Sovereign, and Supreme Being, He possesses absolute authority (Ps. 135:6). He is the one to whom everyone must answer and is the owner of everything (Ex. 19:5). The earth is full of His riches (Ps. 104:24). Everything in the universe and everyone on earth owes allegiance to Him. All creation is subject to Him.

PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP

Mt. 24:14-30; Mt. 25:15; Mark 13:34
Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:4-16.

The believer has a ministry in life to conform with God's will, responding to His covenant call of grace. (*Mt. 24:14-30*)

Everyone has talents and abilities that God appointed and give us opportunities for service unto Him.

Jesus, spoke of such opportunities (Mt. 25:15; Mark 13:34, also the apostle Paul. (Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:4-16).

This variety of gifts involves the use of our material resources, cars, money, homes, clothes, food, and all of the wealth in creation. It involves our natural and mental aptitudes, our physical strength and abilities.

Self Check Questions:

1. What are my abilities?
2. Do I have any unused ones?
3. Do I have any undeveloped abilities?
4. Am I being a good steward of God's gifts and resources.?

PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP

Psalm 24; Psalm 50:10-12; Haggai 2:8

When we begin to follow Christ, here are some questions that we should ask, if we desire the outcome of a "good steward"

"God, how do you want me to spend Your day?"

"God, how do you want me to spend Your money?"

• "God, how much of Your money should I be keeping for myself?"

• "God, how do You want me to care for and feed Your body?"

• "God, how do You want me to raise Your children?"

• "God, what kind of house and car do You want me to have?"

The Steward's Way

The full acceptance that you own nothing. God promoted us to serve as trusted steward or manager of a portion of God's vast empire. We are expected to use these entrusted resources not just for our own personal consumption, but also to advance His Kingdom and to bless and serve others as you follow the Master on the good way. (I Timothy 6:19)



CORPORATE STEWARDSHIP

1 Cor. 12 ; Rom. 12; Exodus 35:22;

2nd Chronicles 24:10; Acts 4:3 and 35

The Biblical basis for corporate Stewardship effort based upon the interdependency of each other. The church as the body of Christ has many members, but these members are to function together. 1st Cor. 12; Romans 12

In the Old Testament, corporate stewardship was exercised in the collection of gifts for the building of the Tabernacle, Ex 35:22

Corporate giving was also demonstrated in the collection taken for the repairs needed for God's House. 2nd Chronicles 24:10.

The early church was engaged in meeting the needs of its poorer members. Acts 4:34 and 35 relates, "It should be an objective of each church to provide support for its needy members. This responsibility should not be given to the state.

Also, the Apostle Paul taught stewardship as he proclaimed the Gospel of Christ: (Phil. 4:16).

The primary concern of group stewardship is not in the raising of money but in corporately reaching the world for Christ through the equipping of the saints and the proclamation of the Gospel (Eph. 4:7). Corporately the church must seek not just to raise money but to raise men. for I seek not yours but you.: (1 Cor. 12:14).

