

Stewardship

1. Introduction to Stewardship

Foundation Scripture: Luke 16:10-12

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

Introduction

The Word of God clearly teaches us that God is the Owner, Possessor and Giver of all things. Mankind is therefore a Steward of all that they have and thus accountable to God for everything that they have.

Stewardship defined: ***"Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities and material possessions, based on the conviction that these are in trust from God in order to be used in his service and for the benefit of his Kingdom. It is a Divine-human partnership, with God as the senior partner. Stewardship is a way of life; the recognition of God's ownership of one's person, power and possessions and the faithful use of these for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in the world"***

• The word steward means "one who is given or charged with the administration of the affairs of another person"

Meaning

οἰκονομία (oikonomia) literally refers to the **management or administration of a household**.

It comes from two Greek words:

- **οἶκος (oikos)** = house / household
- **νόμος (nomos)** = law / rule / management

So the basic idea is:

“The management of a household on behalf of its owner.”

• A steward does not own what has been entrusted to him, he simply holds it in trust on behalf of the rightful owner.

Sadly, many Christians **confuse** the difference between **OWNERSHIP & STEWARDSHIP**

• **OWNERSHIP** - God is the owner of all things, by virtue of the fact that he has created all things (Gen 1)

Psalm 24:1 "The earth's is the Lord's and everything in it"

The title deeds of ownership for creation are held by God, not by man or by the devil! God has chosen to share his creation with mankind, whilst retaining the rights of ownership.

• **STEWARDSHIP** - Mankind is a steward not an owner of what has been given to him. We are therefore accountable before the Lord for how we handle what he has entrusted to our charge.

God has entrusted his people with gifts and talents as part of his redemptive purpose in the earth. Stewardship means that we are tested in the areas of:

Priorities and Passions - the things that matter most

Faith and Faithfulness - Do we trust God?, and are we faithful in discharging what he calls us to:

ACCOUNTABILITY

Stewardship relates to 3 main areas in the life of a believer:

1. **TIME** - A believer is responsible before God in how they use their time. Every person has been allocated the same amount of time, and thus is responsible for how they use it.

Paul says that we have to "redeem the time..." (Eph 5:16).

Discipleship centres in the wise use of our time. Wasted time is a sin!

A sinful act is a waste of time..

2. **TALENTS** - A believer is responsible before God for how they use the natural and spiritual gifts that God has given them. These gifts have been given so that God might be glorified, the believer fulfilled, and that the Kingdom of Christ might advance in the earth

3. **TREASURE** - A believer is responsible before God for how they handle material possessions: Money, etc. This aspect of stewardship forms one of the main areas of responsibility for a believer - the wisdom to know how to handle possessions including money.

Stewardship - The Journey into Life

1. Men are Stewards - Not Owners

Luke 19:13

"So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. "Put this money to work, he said, 'until I come back.'

2. Stewardship in the use of our God-given gifts

Matthew 25:14-15 The Parable of the Talents

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey".

3. Faithfulness Required

1 Corinthians 4:2

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful"

4. A sacred treasure to be guarded and protected

1 Timothy 6:20

"Timothy guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from Godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is called knowledge"

5. Ministering as stewards

1 Peter 4:10

"Each one should use whatever gift has been received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"