
Stewarding God's Gifts

5/31/09

Stewarding God's Gifts

I. Principle #1: God Created and Owns Everything

A. All Creation Belongs To God



Is 40:25-26(NASB95)25“To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?” says the Holy One. 26Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.

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B. All Humanity Is Created By God and Belongs To God



Ge 1:26-27(NASB95) 26Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.




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Is 64:8(NASB95) But now, O Lord, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.

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C. All Resources Belong To God

-  **Ps 24:1(NASB95)** 1The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.
 -  **Hag 2:8(NASB95)**8'The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,' declares the Lord of hosts.
 -  **Dt 8:18(NASB95)**18'But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.
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“Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you.” — Lynn A.

Miller, author

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II. Principle #2: The Christian Is A Steward of Life


A. We Are Each Stewards of Our Lives




Ro 12:1(The Message) 1 So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

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B. We Are Each Stewards of Time

 **Eph 5:15-16(NASB95)** 15Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

C. We Are Each Stewards of Gifts, Talents & Abilities

 **1 Pe 4:10(NASB95)** 10As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

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D. We Are Each Stewards of **Resources**



2 Co 8:12(NIV) 12For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

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Mal 3:8-10(NASB95) 8“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. 9“You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! 10“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”

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III. Principle #3: Stewardship Is Our Joyful Response To God For What He Has Done For Us

A. A genuine revelation of God's provision produces joy and generosity



2 Co 9:6-12(NASB95)6Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
7Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; 9as it is written, “He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness endures forever.” 10Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. 12For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

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“Happiness is not having what you want, it is wanting what you have.” – Unknown

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B. Generosity is a **blessing** to us



Lk 6:38(NASB95)38“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

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C. Generosity is a blessing to **others**



2 Co 9:12(NASB95) 12For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill


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- D. It is from the **heart** of a person that one's actions flow forth

Application: What have we been given? What has God done for us? Do we take these things for granted? How have we responded with generosity? Have we buried what God has give us or have we used it to be a blessing to others?


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IV. Principle #4: God Holds Christians Accountable For All That Is Entrusted To Them

 **Lk 12:48(NASB95)**48...From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

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A. We are accountable to God for **everything** we do

 **2 Co 5:10(NIV)** 10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

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B. Our works will be **tested** and rewarded accordingly



1 Co 3:12-15(NASB95) 12Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

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C. To whom much is given much will be **required**



Lk 12:48(NASB95)48...From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

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- V. Principle #5: Christian Stewardship Requires Personal Commitment, Discipline and Sacrifice**
 - A. Generous Stewardship Requires Personal **Commitment**
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Mt 6:19-21(NASB95)19“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”




Lk 6:38(NASB95)38“For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

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B. Generous Stewardship Requires Personal Discipline

 **Mt 6:33(NASB95)**33“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

C. Generous Stewardship Requires Personal Sacrifice

 **Mt 6:24(NASB95)**24“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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Love of God:

- Walk by faith
- Calls us to be humble
- Set our minds on things above
- Calls us to love light
- Calls us to look at the eternal

Love of Money:

- Walk by sight
 - Calls us to be proud
 - Set our minds on things below
 - Calls us to love darkness
 - Calls us to look at the here and now
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“When we let go of money, we are letting go of part of ourselves and part of our security. But this is precisely why it is important to do it. It is one way to obey Jesus' command to deny ourselves. When we give money, we are releasing a little more of our egocentric selves and a little more of our false security. Giving frees us to care. It produces an air of expectancy as we anticipate what God will lead us to give. It makes life with God an adventure in the world, and that is worth living for and giving for.” - *Richard J. Foster*
