

Stewardship

I. Stewardship Definition

- A. English: From Anglo-Saxon “stigweard” - One employed to take care of another’s possessions.
- B. Greek: oikonomos - the manager of a household or estate

II. Some principles underlying stewardship

A. Ownership

- 1. Psalm 24:1; Job 41:11 Genesis 14:19-20 - Everything belongs to God
- 2. Ezekiel 18:4 - All souls belong to God
- 3. Psalm 50:10-12 - All the animals belong to God

B. Possessions

- 1. Haggai 2:8 - All the silver and gold belongs to God
- 2. Leviticus 25:23 - The Land belongs to God
- 3. I Corinthians 6:19-20 - Christians belong to God
- 4. James 1:17 - Every perfect gift is from God

C. Use of Possessions

- 1. I Cor 4:1-2 - Required that a steward be found faithful (trustworthy)
- 2. I Peter 4:10 - Employ your special gifts in serving one another
- 3. Matthew 25:14-30, 31-46 - Parable of the Talents
- 4. Attitude about possessions
 - a. 1 Timothy 6:17-18 - Do not fix hope on them, be generous
 - b. I Corinthians 4:6-14; Phillipians 2:3-8 - Do not become arrogant about what you have received, God gave it to you. Humility

d. 1 Timothy 6:10 - Source of problems is the “love” of money

D. Accountability

1. 2 Corinthians 4:2 - It is required a steward be found faithful
1. Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 16:1-2 - Master called for an accounting
2. Romans 14:12 - Each one will give account of himself to God

III. The weekly giving and collection

A. Giving is

1. Philippians 4:10-20 - Worship
 - a. Sacrifice means giving your best to God, not merely to do without
 - b. Many do not view collection as worship, but as meeting the budget
 - c. Some are nearly apologetic in attitude for asking for money
2. 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 - A grace
 - a. Gift to be freely given.
 - b. New Testament does not teach to tithe, it deals with maximums, not minimums (note adjectives: affliction, joy, poverty, liberality...)
3. 2 Corinthians 8:4 - A fellowship (same word used for Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 10:16)
4. 2 Corinthians 8:8-9, 24 - A proof of ones love
5. 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 - Means for providing for equality (sharing)

B. Principles for giving

1. Matthew 6:1-4 - To be done Privately (between you and God)
2. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 9:6 - Should be done liberally & generously

3. 2 Corinthians 8:5 - Should be a reflection of the giving of self to God
4. 2 Corinthians 8:10-12 - Should be done readily
5. 2 Corinthians 8:12-15 - Done purposefully with thoughtful devotion
6. 2 Corinthians 9:7 - To be done cheerfully
7. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 -
 - a. To be done regularly
 - b. To be done orderly
 - c. To be done with thoughtful devotion & preparation

C. Results of Giving

1. Luke 6:38
2. Treasure in Heaven (*Matthew 6:4, 20*)
3. 2 Corinthians 9:13

D. Why on the first day? 1 Cor 16:1-2 - It is worship

IV. Church's stewardship of resources

A. Old Testament Background: The tithe was used to support the Levites and the Ministry of the Temple

B. Principles for use of resources:

1. 2 Corinthians 5:9
2. Colossians 3:17
3. 2 Thessalonians 3:1; 1 Peter 4:11

C. Examples of these principles at work:

1. 1 Corinthians 9:9-14
2. 1 Timothy 5:17-18

3. Acts 6:1; (I Timothy 5:3-16)

4. Acts 4:32-35

5. Philippians 4:15-17

IV. Contemplate the meaning of Mark 14:6-8