

Stewarding our Gifts

Definition of Stewardship: The office, duties, and obligations of a steward; the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. It is an ethic that embodies responsible planning and management of resources. The concept of stewardship has been applied in diverse realms, including respect to environment, economics, health, property, information, and religion, and is linked to the concept of sustainability.

The Calling of a Steward:

- A steward belongs to the Lord—not just the resources that he/she oversees. This keeps us as a vital part of the household of God.
- A steward has learned the difference between being a manager and being an owner.
- A steward has learned to be attentive to the voice of the Master—ready, willing, and able to accomplish the Master's will instead of his own—paying the price of 'dying to self' in order to live for the will of the Master.
- A steward has a personal response-ability as well as a corporate response-ability.
- A steward functions in the world (often within set systems) and yet is not of the world (its' motivations and goals).
- Stewardship is not the road to becoming your own 'master'—it is the way of a servant.
- A steward has an eternal perspective while in temporal circumstances.

Stewarding What You Have Received

- We try to steward what we want—rather than what we have received (seed/fruit)
- Multiplication is the DNA of the Kingdom—Genesis 1:28-29, Genesis 15:5, Deuteronomy 28
- Matthew 25:14
 - Entrusted according to ability
 - Faithful in a little thing—placed in authority over much
 - Need an accurate understanding of the Master
- Parable of the Soils
 - Entrusted with mysteries of the Kingdom
 - Shown the way for fruitfulness
 - Emphasis is on hearing carefully/receiving/obeying/bearing
- Paul: Ephesians 3:2, Colossians 1:25

Consider What You Will Give An Account For:

Temple (How do you care for it?)
Time (How do you account for it?)
Talents (How do you recognize it?)
Treasure (How do you invest it?)
Territory (How do you 'govern' it?)
Testimony (Who must hear it?)