

## **Christian Stewardship**

Stewardship is the responsible management and care of the resources, gifts, and opportunities entrusted to us by God. It is based on the understanding that everything we have belongs to God, and we are His managers or caretakers. This includes our time, talents, finances, relationships, and the created world.

A steward does not own what they manage but is entrusted by the owner (God) to handle it wisely and faithfully for His purposes. Christian stewardship involves recognizing God's ownership, using His resources for His glory, and being accountable for how we manage all that He has given us.

“Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

### **1. The Foundational Principle of Stewardship**

Creation and God's Ownership (Genesis 1)

The Bible begins with the powerful declaration:

*“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)*

In Genesis 1, we see God as the sovereign Creator who speaks everything into existence—light, land, vegetation, animals, and humanity. Because God created all things, everything belongs to Him:

*“The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalm 24:1)*

Humanity's role in creation is defined by God's mandate in Genesis 1:26-28:

*“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds in the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”*

God entrusted humans with dominion over the earth, making us stewards rather than owners. This stewardship requires care, responsibility, and accountability to God.

## **2. Stewardship of Time**

Time is a gift from God, and believers are called to use it wisely:

*“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16)*

Faithful stewardship of time involves prioritizing God’s kingdom, spending time in worship, service, and caring for others, and avoiding idle or wasteful pursuits.

## **3. Stewardship of Talents**

God has endowed each believer with unique gifts and abilities:

*“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them” (Romans 12:6a)*

These gifts are to be used to serve others and glorify God:

*“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)*

Faithful stewardship means identifying and developing our talents for ministry, work, and service.

## **4. Stewardship of Treasure**

Material possessions are also a trust from God. Believers are called to manage their finances with generosity and integrity:

*“Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.” (Proverbs 3:9)*

Jesus teaches that our relationship with money reveals our spiritual priorities:

*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)*

Faithful stewardship of treasure involves tithing, giving to the needy, and using financial resources to further God’s kingdom.

Many people trust God with just about everything except their finances. Trusting God with your finances, shows your dependances on him, knowing that he will provide for your every need.

*“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each of you give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)*