

The Stewardship of Generations: *Our lives*

(1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

Vision: *Thirsty Souls Restored, Lives Changed, and Joyful Disciples worshipping Christ* –
=this is only what God can do“ *A God-given Vision must continue beyond just one lifetime*”

Mission: Leading ALL GENERATIONS to love God, follow Jesus, and model His mission to
transform *all* peoples and nations w/ the gospel’

-Summary: All Generations Worshipping God

ASK=full engagement with the Mission of the WELL: 100% participation Sp. Stew. (membr, known, growing, serving, on Mission) & 100% in Fin. Stew. (not equal gifts/but equal sacrifice)

****Series on Stewardship:** The pursuit of godly stewardship is the pursuit of our heart.
The aim of this series is to learn to give your life, your heart, & *everything* we touch on this earth back to the only Being in the universe absolutely worthy to receive it and *who already owns it anyway*.

*The goal of this series is to help us learn to **TRUST** God the Giver, to see trust as act of worship!

****Our truest worship begins in the yielding of our self & our desires to God in order to have the Lord replace things we hold in this life with the insatiable desire for Him most.**
=He becomes the prize!

*****Main Point: We belong to Jesus & He’s a trustworthy owner of our hearts & LIVES!**

All we are (life; breath; body; future) **and all we have** (what we touch) **belongs to HIM:**
= our life and death belong to Jesus (& everything in between)

-Our **Families** belong to Jesus (we give them back as soon as we get them)

-Our **Jobs** belong to Jesus (He alone gives us power to make wealth)

-Our **Church** belongs to Jesus (His Bride is worth our best effort to serve & bless)

-Our **Money** belongs to Jesus (Generosity is a test of faithfulness of God’s provision)

-Our **Future** belongs to Jesus. (Our fears: uncertainties; the unknown - our suffering, our loss, our disappointment, our failures each belong to Jesus).

-Every GENERATION belongs to Jesus. (They are ours to steward as precious gifts to cherish!)

Biblical Principles of STEWARDSHIP

1. Everything in this life is a *temporary gift*. (your health; looks; family; job; wealth; things; future)
2. We are keepers (temporarily) of these gifts. We are called to steward them for God’s glory.
3. We rejoice that God invests in us and entrusts to us these gifts to grow, use, bless, and give away [The gifts we have are the *means* for us trust Him & want Him more than these things/gifts];
4. These gifts are *NOT* to become idols to us, but relationships & objects = as blessings to steward to (A) build His kingdom first (not ours); to (B) bless others as we have been blessed; and (C) give God glory to the fullest = rather than us!!

5. The first stewardship required of us is of our heart: what God wants most in us and from us is our heart to be His (Mt. 6:33); that we would *trust* Him with everything in our life.

****Our trust in God is how we worship Him** (=God is glorified in our full trust in His goodness, purpose, and timing of everything in our life and future) =this produces His **Glory & our JOY**.

***What’s really yours in this life? What do you really own? Possess? Control? =reality?**

READ 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (for little ears, I've redacted two words) *Courtesan/working girl*
"12 All things are permitted for me, but not all things are of benefit. All things are permitted for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, however God will do away with both [l]of them. But the body is not for *sexual* immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. 14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are parts of Christ? Shall I then take away the parts of Christ and make them parts of a *courtesan*? [l]Far from it! 16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a *courtesan* is one body with her? For He says, "The two shall become one flesh." 17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee *sexual* immorality. Every other sin that a person commits is outside the body, but the [k]*sexually* immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a [m]temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from [m]God, and *that* you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought for a price: **therefore glorify God in your body.**"

-We've each been entrusted with our LIFE on this earth; we've been given a body, **TIME**, daily experiences, education, relationships, opportunities, challenges, temptations, pain & loss.

How do we navigate all of this well?? What do we make of our lives?

Non-believer= **self** first; what feels good; what you can get away with; self-soothing; what you *deserve*; what you've earned; what you are *owed* [steal it if you deserve it]; =**SELF on throne**

-Believer = Spirit filled, blood-bought, Christ-centered, (J.O.Y Jesus/others/yourself) *I'm' third*
=What does God's Word say? How is Spirit leading me? What does Godly counsel affirm?
What is my level of spiritual peace? What will glorify God most? WWJD? Ph. 2:3 =**others first**

1 Cor. 6 = a case study in Stewardship; one example of a Christian(s) in church life at Corinth getting this wrong. **Case** =fleshly lusts (earthly passions) becoming their IDOL.

(IDOL=I want something so bad, I will sin against God to get it). **PRIDE/UNBELIEF** = **I always want what God has not wanted for me!** **PRIDE**: God has held out on me; I deserve X; I'll get it!!

UNBELIEF: God must not have my best interest in mind *bc* He has not allowed me to have X.

Can I really trust Him? Is He really a good God? Is He really trustworthy? '**Has God said....**'

-In **biblical stewardship**, **what will we do with what God has given me?** **What has He given u?**
=**What will we do with what He has entrusted me for a higher purpose?**

****STEWARD** = a Custodian; Guardian; Caretaker; Protector; undershepherd;

I.e. Babysitter: oversee another's precious gifts (their kids). **NOT mine.**

***Case of surrogate mom** (in vitro pregnancy; baby had a heart condition; CA parents wanted to abort; mom came to TX to have baby; baby had heart surg.) – **Supreme Ct. Surrogate carrying lady is NOT the mother and has no rights to the child and cannot make medical decisions for the child. She is the carrier; guardian; custodian; not the parent = lim. Rights/temporal rights.**

1. In Kingdom stewardship, I can only serve one **Master** at a time. I answer to it's Lordship over my whole life. **Vs: 1** "All things are permitted for me, but not all things are of benefit. All things are permitted for me, but I will **not** be mastered by anything" **Why?** Bc the Christian already has a Master; the Believer already has a Lord. Every disciple is already a subject to King of Kings! -I will not be mastered by anything (food; alcohol; sex; work; relationships; money; things; comfort; experiences, games; pleasure; ease; worry; anxiety; fear; discontentment; SIN...**X** ??? -"*Whatever masters us has become our god; what we hunger for most, we worship*"-Piper -Mt. 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. -As the King of the universe, Jesus will suffer NO rivals for His Kingship in our lives. -Mt. 12:30 "The one who is not with Me is against Me; and the one who does not gather with Me scatters." -Right now, what has Lordship in your life? What have you allowed to master u?
2. In Kingdom stewardship, God created us to live in light of the **eternal** (not temporal) first. ¹³ Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, however God will do away with both ¹⁴ of them. But the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. ¹⁴ Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. (our focus in this life, our hope is **eternal** – what God is planning for us in eternity (HIMSELF; **He is the Prize**)). Diff. Maturity vs. immaturity? =planning for future vs. gratifying earthly cravings now -The things we have been given to steward on this earth (our lives, bodies, sustenance, relationships, family and careers) are to point us to eternity (**NOT** replace it); our life on this earth is a temporary gift to give us ample to time to learn **why** we are on this earth: (ALL OF LIFE IS ONE BIG PRACTICE FOR ETERNITY). This is practice for righteousness & worship (NOW & which will be perfected in heaven). This life is practice to learn how to hold loosely to temporal relationships, success, and things; to value the eternal things over earthly things to learn to give away/bless others as worship! *What have you confused with what is actually eternal? Success? Bigger bank acct. More stuff? -Mt. 6:19-20 "Do not **store up** for yourselves **treasures** on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But **store up** for yourselves **treasures** in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;
3. In Kingdom stewardship, what we possess is primarily for God's **purpose** and **power**. -That which we have been entrusted exists *first* as a display for God's Kingdom purposes =**eternal relationships**. =We were created for a spiritual & eternal purpose *first*. Our lives *matter here* bc of *who* **GOD** says I am; bc *what* God declares about me =we are made in His image; forgiven; righteous; adopted; perfectly loved; always interceded for; never abandoned; empowered with His SPIRIT =**UNION** with Christ. ¹⁷ But the one who joins himself to the Lord is **one spirit with Him**. We exist to *BE* in relationship with the living God. Thus, everything we have/posses/have built & have been entrusted with=exists to push us to that relationship with God. Our things are not simply for our earthly needs, our things we have are used by God to show us His own goodness, provision, love, & everything we possess is to point to the ultimate, the eternal, the perfect, & God being the perfect satisfaction of our desires/ultimate longing. Great steak; wine; intimacy; long run; craving for companionship; a well-built shelter; *sunsets*

*Everything we have and experience in this life is to *foreshadow* the **ultimate** that is to be perfectly satisfied *only IN Him*; & *with Him*; with what He has prepared for us.

-Instead of becoming infatuated with what we possess and idolize the gifts from God, God entrusts to us these things to push us to love the Gift-giver rather than the gifts.

-Eccl. 3:11 “He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart...”

-1 Cor. 2:9 “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the human heart, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

What in your life do you own that is a real distraction from the Lord Himself, as the greatest GIFT of all; as the Perfect Gift-giver?

4. In Kingdom stewardship, with whatever I have been entrusted belongs to **another**. It was bought and paid for by another. It is owned by another. It is controlled by another. My life, my breath, my future belongs to God bc Jesus bought and paid for it. I am NOW His. All that I am and all that I have is NOW His.

Vs. 19: Or do you not know that your body is a ^{temple} of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from ^{God}, and *that* you are not your own? For you have been **bought** for a price: **therefore glorify God in your body.**” If you are a Believer, it is bc God chose you to be saved. It is bc Jesus paid for you to be His (redeemed/ransomed). Bc the Holy Spirit regenerated you to be His. The Spirit indwelt you & now fills you – your body (LIFE) is God’s **Temple** =**designed for WORSHIP!**

So all that I am and ALL that I have is already His; He bought and paid for it; He has a divine purpose for it. That purpose is NOT that I hoard it; hide it; idolize it; keep it; or worship it.

-All that I have is a **gift** that I get to steward, to grow for a season & then give it away.

-All that I have is a **responsibility** that I get to guard it; protect it; and invest into it -so I can multiply it to give away.

-For all that I have, I **will answer** for how I have stewarded it

-In all that I have been entrusted, my stewardship/choices don’t just affect me (but others).

-All that I have is temporary; I only get a season to steward it. **It’s been given to give back!**

What do I have in my life that I have confused with my ownership vs. God’s ownership?

5. In Kingdom Stewardship, everything entrusted to me is for one sole purpose: **to Glorify God.**

Vs. 20: For you have been **bought** for a price: **therefore glorify God in your body.**”

-God is glorified as we learn **Lordship** (He is King; this is Kingdom; we are *His* subjects) v. *Pride*

-God is glorified as we learn divine **Ownership** (He is Sovereign, **He owns it all**) -We get to use it only for a season; **Vacation house; boat; jetski = nice, enjoy, but NOT yours.**

-God is glorified as we learn trust. **God is trustworthy**; God is all powerful; all-wise; all-loving; =God gives us what **He** wants for us (have) to steward for a season. & what He doesn’t want

...-**Mt. 25:14-30** ****5 talents, 2, then 1.** God decides who gets what; **India vs. Westlake ur heart?**

*We cannot worry about what God entrusts to others (**comparing; jealous; bitter; despairing**)

We have been entrusted with temporary relationships & objects on this earth to use, grow, improve, bless, and then to give back **ALL for God’s glory!! What do you have, what have you accomplished, what have you built or gathered that you have confused for your glory Vs. God’s?

The Generation Kingdom - those before us and those after us will be impacted by our investment in others - we live with a Kingdom mentality and an investment posture:

Community Group Discussion Questions

1. What do we glean from Matthew 25:14-30? What is a modern day example of “talents” (which were monetary possessions in first century); gifts; blessings in your life that you are to steward? How was 1 Cor. 6:12-20 helpful to think about divine stewardship and God’s eternal purposes for entrusting us with relationships and objects?
2. Right now, what has Lordship (dominance) in your life that is not the LORD? What have you allowed to master you?
3. What have you confused with what is actually eternal? Success? Bigger bank acct. More stuff?
4. What in your life do you own that is a real distraction from the Lord Himself, as the greatest GIFT of all; as the Perfect Gift-giver?
5. What do I have in my life that I have confused with my ownership vs. God’s ownership?
6. What do you have, what have you accomplished, what have you built or gathered that you have confused for your glory Vs. God’s?
7. How has this message inspired you? Convicted you? Enlightened you concerning why God gives each of us what He does AND what He expects in our giving back to Him?