



Stewardship Primer 1

Making the Case for Stewardship Education

1 Corinthians 4:2

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."

What is needed?

Intentional, systematic, comprehensive, year-round, whole life stewardship education is necessary in the Christian congregation.

Jesus desires that His people have the *abundant life* He came to give (John 10:10). This abundant life consists of knowing Jesus Christ and learning from Him (2 Peter 3:18). It also includes living in obedience to God's Word (Colossians 1:9-10).

What evidence is there that this is needed?

Michael Horton: "Gallup and Barna hand us survey after survey demonstrating that evangelical Christians are as likely to embrace lifestyles every bit as hedonistic, materialistic, self-centered, and sexually immoral as the world in general."

Robert Benne: "Too many of us are 'partial Christians.' Our Christian convictions apply only to a small part of our life—and the portion is shrinking. It will continue to shrink unless we regain a comprehensive vision of life that helps us reunite what modern life breaks apart...our lives in business, education, and politics become increasingly this-worldly."

Christians have made the "tragic mistake" of equating Christian stewardship solely or primarily with financial issues. When this happens the life changing nature of Christian stewardship is lost.

Christians have individualized their lives. God calls us into a community of believers.

Christians have compartmentalized their lives. God calls us to discipleship in every area of our lives.

Christians have an increasingly difficult time discerning the difference between what God's Word says and what the culture tells them.

*Stewardship has
been kidnapped
and is being held
hostage by a
sinister villain
named "Paying
the Bills."
-Charles Lane*

How are we uniquely qualified to tackle this need?

We have God's clear word that He came to save us and to make us good people (Titus 2:11-15).

We understand that the Holy Spirit transforms His people (Titus 1:1; Col 2:6-7; Romans 12:12; 2 Cor. 3:18).

We understand the need for adaptive solutions as well as technical solutions. Technical solutions are intended to fix something quickly. Some things, however, cannot be fixed quickly and require adaptive solutions. Adaptive solutions require continuous learning and are designed to impact attitudes, beliefs, and behavior.

We understand from God's Word that being a Christian steward means that we have the privilege and responsibility of managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

What will be the benefits of a renewed focus on Biblical stewardship?

Transformation in the life of the individual Christian and in the life of the congregation.

Members understand what it means to be a Christian steward.

Members live out their lives as stewards rather than owners.

Faithful stewardship modeled by leaders and members.

Necessary resources available to carry out the mission and ministry God has called the church to do.

What are the possible negative consequences if nothing changes?

Failure to be the kind of Church and people God desires.

Malaise in the body of Christ. (Decline in attendance, lack of willing workers, lack of finances and other resources, lack of transformed living by God's people, etc.)

The church will continue to be seen as increasingly irrelevant by the unchurched.

