



GUIDELINES *for* Christian Stewards

APPENDIX

Notes for Stewards . . . Individually and Corporately

A steward is a manager of another's belongings; a caretaker, custodian, trustee; a chosen servant; an important person in a privileged, responsible position. "... it is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2)." The steward, Shebna, was the manager of the household (Is. 22:15). An irresponsible steward can lose the privilege and position (Luke 16:2).

A steward has a sense of accountability, belonging, dignity, identification, and a close relationship with the Master (Rom. 12:1–2). Stewards also have that relationship *with one another* as part of the larger "body of Christ," *His Church . . . on His mission* (Rom. 12; 1 Corinthians 12; 2 Corinthians 8–9).

A steward cannot forget her/his "place," position, in the relationship with the Master, the Owner. Stewards follow the instruction of the Master (Gen. 43:16). As a governor Joseph was a steward (Gen. 41:41; 42:6) and had a steward who was responsible to him (Gen. 43:19). Stewards are called to responsive faith, to a living trust, and to a great honor . . . personally *and collectively!*

A steward cannot forget his/her position and **relationship with others** in the body of Christ—because of our common relationship with/thru the Lord. "They had everything in common" (Acts 2:44).

A steward is NOT the Owner (Ps. 24:1), the ruler, the director, nor is the steward merely "one of the others" or like the "hired help." A steward is **NOT an unthinking puppet**, nor a robot-like slave! In Romans 16:23 the city treasurer is called "steward of the city." Stewards are on **God's** mission.

A steward is NOT irresponsible, slothful, lazy, nor merely looking out for her/himself. "As each person has received a gift from God, *employ it for one another*, as good stewards of God's varied gifts" (1 Peter 4:10). As "the body of Christ" (Romans 12) we do this *together!*

A steward is created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26–31), redeemed by the grace of God, forgiven by Jesus Christ and given the position of overseer of God's gifts of life, relationships, time, ability, creation and even the Gospel (Eph. 3:2–10)! The steward's blessings and responsibilities increase. ". . . to whomever much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48) ... *individually and corporately* (John 20:21).

God's stewards see all of life as the time and place for serving the Savior, not just part of life or some of the time of life. Stewards live in relationship with the rest of the people, property and potential owned by the Creator. Stewards are instrument of blessing for the sake of the Ultimate Owner of everything and everyone ... *individually and corporately* (Ps. 24:1; 1 Cor. 12:4–27).

A steward considers the long-range plan of the Master as well as the immediate needs of the Masters friends. "His steward was overseeing the laborers . . ." (Matt. 20:8). Stewards do not make decisions by themselves. Stewards consult the Lord. God has chosen us and given us all of life to manage in service to all people. It is an honor to be God's stewards . . . *individually and collectively.*

Our mission as stewards is to be *personal and corporate agents of blessing*; equipping, giving, encouraging, reconciling, preserving, relieving, bringing hope and help from the Owner to all whose lives we can touch (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; Galatians 6). Stewardship involves all of life lived for God's purposes in response to the present and eternal mercies of God—given through Jesus, our Savior! (Romans 12).



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The Seven T's of Christian Stewardship

“Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God, and God’s family the Church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.” It’s more than “time, talent and treasure!” Being *God’s steward* in all of life involves **seven “T’s.”** Please give your prayerful attention to each of these biblical realities for life with God.

TIME: It’s a gift from God! ... each second, minute, hour, day! ... How we use them reflects our stewardship of God’s gift of life! See Psalm 31:15; Ecclesiastes 3 and 8; Esther 4:14.

TALENT: It’s a gift from God. Everyone has some! God gives talent in great variety! Read Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. Discovering, developing and deploying those talents is a matter of our stewardship . . . individually and collectively!

TREASURE: Money is a gift from God. God owns it. God lets us earn and use it! Christians are God’s stewards! We are managers. We did not make our own brain! ... and we’ve never seen a moving van pulled behind a hearse! It all goes back to God! See Luke 12:13–21; Matt. 25:14–46; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8–9.

TESTIMONY: It’s a privilege to share the love Christ has given us! We are “stewards” of the Gospel and we have HIS story to tell! Stewards “testify” about HIS life-giving forgiveness, peace and hope! See John 10; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15; Rom. 1:16–17.

TOUCH: The amazing truth is: GOD works thru people with His grace . . . and as God’s stewards (instruments, agents, managers), Jesus’ followers touch the lives of others with HIS compassion, care and love. Relationships matter! Consider Luke 15; Matt. 25:31–45; Matt. 19:13–15.

TISSUE: Being the steward, a caretaker of one’s body is a matter of Christian stewardship. See 1 Cor. 3:16 and 6:19 about being God’s “temple!” ... being an organ or blood donor, giving of one’s God-given body parts for the benefit of another of God’s children is being a steward.

TRASH: The care of God’s creation, GOD’S earth, is a matter of stewardship (Genesis 1–2; Ps. 24:1–2; etc.) and what and how we discard things reflects on our awareness of GOD’S ownership and our management as stewards!

Being God’s steward is a daily, life-long privilege!
In our congregations we can help one another persevere in this holy calling!
May our Lord bless and multiply His stewards!



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What Helps a Congregation in the Continuing Education of Christian Stewards

- A growing awareness that the very purpose of life is to be God's steward, disciple, manager and agent.
 - Keeping the meaning and the message of the Cross of Christ in the center of everything!
 - Prayers with "stewardship–discipleship" vocabulary (e.g. offering prayers, requests, etc.).
 - Hymns for stewards about living as God's stewards: motivations, ministry, serving, loving, blessing.
 - Bulletin/screen items that highlight the ongoing service of stewards; who is doing what, where, why it is done, what happens because of this, etc.
 - Saying "thank you" often, regularly, in a variety of ways.
 - Helping people see the good that is being done in the name of Christ as one of God's stewards, as a group of God's stewards.
 - Monthly/quarterly statements showing financial support, participation in areas of service, worship, communion participation—and its impact on peoples lives in the community and church.
 - Testimonials and personal examples of lay leaders telling of the blessings that come from being God's steward in a variety of areas of life.
 - Regular "education" and personal testimony items in the newsletters, web sites, bulletins, etc., with a solid biblical base.
 - Resources, materials, inserts, screen notes, etc., that help "raise the sights" of the members of the congregation to look beyond themselves and the property lines. Ask: "To whom is God calling us?"
 - Praying for the blessing of the Holy Spirit to open the lives of God's stewards to fulfill His purposes!
 - Bible study that examines the familiar, and the not-so-familiar, portions of Scripture that illustrate the life of the steward in action.
 - Sunday school and Bible class and VBS teachers who regularly apply the meaning of being God's steward to a variety of lessons they teach.
 - Regularly publishing information about the ministry of the congregation that interprets and applies what we are doing together and why!
 - Biblical stewardship training in all new member classes and in periodic orientation classes for long-time members of the congregation.
 - Periodic (spring and fall) education emphasis on "the stewardship of all believers."
 - An emphasis on outreach to the lost, the searching, the drifting people—people loved by God!
 - A variety of ways to tell the story of the ministry of the Church in other places so that the view of our common mission does not stop with "our church." We are partners with others in locally and beyond!
 - The use of attractive biblical materials, mailings, DVDs, videos, etc., in teaching God's stewards.
 - Including leaflets, tracts, stories about being God's stewards in periodic mailings, website updates, etc.
 - Every member visits that ask other members for suggestions and advice about the ministry and programs of the parish (visit #1) and then a visit (#2) to enlist financial and talent support to carry out the ideas.
 - Regular prayer for the leaders of congregation, so they can be good stewards of the positions entrusted to them.
 - Asking other congregations and regional leaders for suggestions.
- What do you think helps?

■ David Belasic

Amazing
LOVE!