

Lifestyle Stewardship



Ken Weliever

A Study on Christian Stewardship Designed for Young Adults

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by
Ken Weliever

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Published by
Spiritbuilding Publishing
15591 N. State Rd. 9
Summitville, IN 46070

Printed in the United States of America
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Spiritual "equipment" for the contest of life.

Introduction

What do most people normally think of when they hear the word stewardship? On one extreme some may see the caricature of a preacher standing in the pulpit begging for more money. On the other side is the dedicated Christian, wanting to do right, feeling the monetary pinch, but saying, “We’ve got to tighten our belts and give more. We will give until it hurts.” Both are extremes. And neither is really a Biblical picture.

We have entitled this study Lifestyle Stewardship. Why? Because stewardship is more than money. Stewardship is not something we do, but it is the way we are. Stewardship involves all of life. Everything. It is our approach to living a God-centered life. It is about our commitment to discipleship to be more like Jesus. Stewardship is more, much more than deciding how much to “put in the plate” on Sunday. It has to do with our values. It is about a mind set. It is about doing all that we can with all that we have.

In this study we will deal with the three “T’s” of stewardship. Your time. Your talent. Your treasure. We want to look at stewardship as it involves these three areas in relation to the wholeness of your life. Too often we compartmentalize our lives into little boxes—work, home, social, church and country. We think of trying to balance everything and putting a bit of time, talent and treasure into all five. If we would change the paradigm and think of two circles— an outer circle with all the responsibilities of life and in inner circle with God in the middle—then it would make stewardship a lifestyle, instead of some obligation we feel on Sunday morning.

The first three lessons in this study will deal with principles that will guide us throughout this study. They will apply to our time, our talent, and our treasure. You will find them helpful in decision making.

While this study is targeted to young adults, many in their twenties, who are just starting their careers and developing a stewardship lifestyle, the material is applicable to all ages. After all, the Bible speaks to all of us about our stewardship and “all things that pertain to life and godliness.” It is our hope and prayer that these lessons will give you an invaluable guide as you grow in grace, knowledge, and stewardship.

—Ken Weliever



Lifestyle Stewardship

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#1 What is Stewardship?

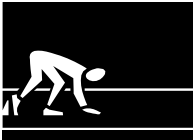
A Passage To Ponder



1 Cor 10:26

for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." (NIV)

Getting Started



When you think of the idea of Stewardship, what are the first thoughts that typically come to the minds of most people?

Defining Stewardship



Thayer defines a steward "the manager of a household or of household affairs; especially a steward, manager, superintendent...(whether free-born, or, as was usually the case, a freed-man or slave) to whom the head of the house or proprietor has entrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children not yet of age.

Webster says a steward is "one who acts as a supervisor or administrator, as of finances and property, for another or others. A manager."

Steward is from an Anglo-Saxon word "stigweard," literally a "sty-ward," one employed to take care of another's possessions. "Sty designated a pen for cattle or swine, while "ward" meant one who guards or a warden.

A steward, therefore, is one who successfully manages, oversees, guards and uses that which belongs to another.

Stewardship suggest that one use properly the possessions of the owner and even improve and increase the holdings as he is empowered to do so.

A disciple of Jesus is a steward. He possesses a stewardship that relates to more than just money as we shall see in this lesson and in the following studies.



What do the following passages have to do with Stewardship? What do you learn from them?

Ps. 24:1

2 Chron 29:11-14

Deut 8:17-18

Haggai 2:8

**#1 Principle of Stewardship: "The Who's in Charge Principle."
God is the _____; I am the _____.**

I. Everything Belongs to _____

- A. He is the _____
- B. He is the _____

II. God Gives _____ to Mankind

- A. God is the giver of _____
- B. He gives us _____ and _____
- C. He provides _____

III. As Stewards We are _____

- A. We are to be _____. 1 Cor. 4:2
- B. A good steward is faithful in _____ things Lk. 16:10
- C. We will be _____ on the basis of our stewardship.
Matt. 18:2-24

List below some ways in which the role of a steward (manager) is different from an owner.

Role of an Owner	Role of a Manager

Stewardship is More than Money

I. I am to be a Good Steward of my _____ Eph. 5:16

A. It is a gift of God

B. We should use it _____

C. It is not ours to use selfishly

II. I am to be a Good Steward of my _____ 1 Pet. 4:11-12;

A. They are given by _____

B. They are to be used for _____

C. They should _____ others

**III. I am to be a good Steward of my _____ 1 Cor 6:19-20
Rom 12:1-2**

A. Not to defile it.

B. Use it to glorify God

IV. I am to be a Good Steward of the _____ 1 Cor 4:1

A. To receive the Gospel in _____

B. To _____ the Gospel with others

C. To reflect the gospel in my _____

V. In Reality, _____ itself is a Stewardship

Reflect & Respond



Consider all the blessings God has given you. In the left column make a list of your tangible, material assets—like money, cars, homes, and clothes. In the right column, list of your intangible assets, such as relationships, health or reputation.

My Tangible Assets

My Intangible Assets

When you consider all your blessings, how do you feel?

What is your stewardship responsibility?

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#2 Principle Centered Stewardship

A Passage To Ponder

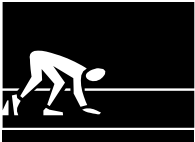


2 Cor 5:17

“We walk by faith and not by sight.”

How does your view or outlook of stewardship affect everything in your Christian walk?

Getting Started



The Importance of Principles

Too often when it comes to stewardship we want someone to tell us how much to give, what percentage to figure or how much I can keep and still please God. This is the wrong approach. We want to begin with some principles.

A principle centered approach to stewardship gives us direction. It produces a paradigm that will prove true and correct in all situations in life. Author Stephen Covey expresses it this way, “Correct principles are like compasses; they are always pointing the way. And if we know how to read them, we won’t get lost, confused or fooled by conflicting voices and values.”

Covey also correctly observes that “principles apply at all times and in all places. They surface in the form of values, ideas, norms and teachings that uplift, ennoble, fulfill, empower and inspire people.” This is true whether we are discussing leadership, parenting, or stewardship. Of course, we believe that God gives us the stewardship principles that will provide that “true north” direction to our lives as we decide how to use our time, talent and treasure.

Several years ago, I attended a Stewardship Seminar by John Maxwell where he shared ten stewardship principles. They are Bible based. They will give us God ordained directives when it comes to our stewardship. We observed the first principle in lesson one: “The Who’s in Charge Principle.” In this lesson we want to consider four more principles. And in lesson three the final five principles.

The rest of our study will be in the application of these ten principles. They will apply to your time, talent and treasure. Once you get them in the center of your life, they will constitute a value system that will answer all your questions and quiet your stewardship concerns.



How do the truths taught in the following passages relate to your Stewardship responsibilities?

Acts 20:35

Heb 3:7

Rom 8:12-13

1 Tim 6:17-19

Stewardship Principles

Principle #2 The Give and Grow Principle: Stewardship Produces _____

Practicing stewardship allows me to grow spiritually. It enables me to....

1. Find my spiritual _____ I Pet 4:11-12
2. Increase my _____. 2 Cor 5:17
3. Become _____ sensitive and not _____ minded
4. Be _____ I in God's Vineyard Mt 25:14-30
5. Receive _____ from God. Mal. 3:10-11
6. Be a blessing to _____. Gal. 6:10
7. Make a lasting contribution to the _____. 2 Cor 9:1-2

Principle #3 The Do It Now Principle: Stewardship Deals with Our _____ Resources

The theme of the Bible is _____. Heb. 3:7

Some Christians say, "If I had a million dollars, I'd give it to the church."

But Luke says "He that is faithful in that which is _____ is faithful also in _____." (16:10)

Principle: "It's not how much money we have, how much God has of us."

"The Person who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything."

—Samuel Johnson

**Principle #4 The I'm in Debt Principle:
The Moment I'm Born I'm In _____**

Rom. 1:14 "I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise."

You and I are debtors:

1. To _____.
2. To the _____ Generation.
3. To the _____ Generation.

"Whatever you have received more than others—in health, in talents, in ability, in success, in a pleasant childhood, in harmonious conditions of home life—all of this you must not take to yourself as a matter of course. In gratitude for your good fortune, you must render some sacrifice of your own life for another life." —Dr. Albert Schweitzer

**Principle #5 The Fountain of Youth Principle:
We Live _____ Through Our _____**

Matt 6:19-21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. NKJV

Consider the Corinthians who we still read about and admire them for their giving.
2 Cor 8:1-5

"What I spent is gone;
What I kept is lost;
But what I gave away will be mine forever."

Reflect & Respond



**Evaluate your stewardship based on these five principles.
What is your attitude and practice?**

What are you presently doing to demonstrate these in your life?

What are some areas in which you need to grow?

Principle #1 The Who's in Charge Principle: God's the Owner, I'm the Manager

Principle #2 The Give and Grow Principle: Stewardship Produces Growth

Principle #3 The Do It Now Principle: Stewardship Deal with Our Present Resources

Principle #4 The I'm in Debt Principle: The Moment I'm Born I'm In Debt

Principle #5 The Fountain of Youth Principle: We Live Forever Through Our Giving

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