

Kingdom Stewardship and Work

Entrusted Series

Bible Text Used: Genesis 1–2 | Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 24:1ⁱ;
Colossians 1:17ⁱⁱ; Ephesians 2:10ⁱⁱⁱ

God Owns Everything

From the very first verse of Scripture— “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”—we learn the first principle of stewardship: if God created it, He owns it. Everything we see and touch belongs to Him (Psalm 24:1^{iv}). Humanity is not the owner but the manager of God’s creation.

Reflection Question: How would your view of possessions and success change if you remembered that nothing you have truly belongs to you?

We Are Made in God’s Image

Human beings are God’s crowning glory. We alone were created in His likeness—with the ability to reason, create, and love. Because we reflect our Creator, we are called to mirror His character through the way we work, care, and create. Stewardship began in the Garden when God placed Adam there “to work it and take care of it.”

Reflection Question: What God-given qualities or skills reflect His image in you, and how can you use them this week?

Work Is Not a Curse—It's a Calling

Ancient cultures like Babylon and Greece saw work as punishment from the gods, but Genesis tells a different story. God designed work before the Fall. Work is partnership with God, not punishment from Him. The Creator Himself is a worker—forming, shaping, and declaring it all good.

Reflection Question: Do you see your daily work—no matter how ordinary—as participation in God's creative purpose?

The Heart of True Stewardship

Stewardship means managing what belongs to another. Because sin distorts this truth, we often act as if we own what we earn. Yet the biblical pattern reminds us: our possessions do not define us; they are entrusted to us. When we forget that, our possessions begin to possess us.

Reflection Question: Where have you been tempted to say, “my stuff” instead of “God's gift”?

Three Ways to Be a Faithful Steward

Tim Keller notes that Genesis 1:26^v reveals three movements of faithful stewardship:

a. Look In – Discover Your Design

Each of us has been given unique gifts and talents. God is Creator, and we are sub-creators who fashion beauty and order from what He provides.

b. Look Out – Serve Others

Our gifts were never meant to serve ourselves alone. Stewardship blesses others. Generosity completes the picture.

c. Look Up – Work as Worship

Whatever our role—factory, office, classroom, or home—work becomes worship when we do it as unto the Lord (Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:23).

Reflection Question: Which of these—looking in, out, or up—needs the most attention in your life right now?

God's Rhythm: Work and Rest

In creation's rhythm, God worked six days and rested one. He didn't rest because He was tired but because His work was complete. Rest is part of stewardship. Ignoring it leads to exhaustion and spiritual drift. God designed our bodies and souls to be renewed regularly.

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Reflection Question: Do you honor God by setting aside time for true rest and renewal each week?

The Rest That Remains

Scripture teaches that a deeper rest remains for the people of God (Hebrews 4:9^{vi}). On the cross, Jesus echoed the Creator's words: "It is finished." The work of salvation was complete, and now He invites us to find rest for our souls in Him. We don't work for salvation—we work from salvation. In Christ, even our hardest work becomes holy because it flows from a heart at rest.

Reflection Question: Have you found the soul-rest Jesus offers, or are you still striving for worth through what you do?

Closing Thought

Stewardship is more than giving; it's a lifestyle of managing God's world, serving others, and worshiping through our work. When we live this way, every task—big or small—becomes sacred. We work not for rest but from rest, trusting the One who said, "It is finished."

ⁱ The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seasⁱ

ⁱⁱ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before

him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

ⁱⁱⁱ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. ⁱⁱⁱ

^v Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

^{vi} So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.