

Intro: What is a Steward? What is stewardship? Servants in charge. High Servants. We are the **IMAGO DEI**. Everything belongs to our LORD & King. Everything we "have" is His. It's on loan. We are granted responsibility to care for it, use it well, and give it back to Him for His glory.

Thesis: Faithful Stewards of the LORD are content, generous & wise w/ their work, words & money.

I. Work (1-2)

- A. **All workers/laborers under yoke.** Acknowledging that work is difficult position. Authority. Owner
- B. **Bosses/Superiors worthy of Honor/Respect/Service.** You represent God there. Ambassador.
- C. **Jesus became a doulos (servant/slave).** Be Jesus in the workplace. Coworker/Employee.
- D. **Ephesians 6:5-9. Same Church/City.** They've been taught this. Remind them. God's Glory.
- E. **Brothers/Sisters/Beloved** - Jesus/God. By you. Seek flourishing. They do well, potential good.

ILLUSTRATION: 40%-79% of World Relief was funded by Christians. 30% of World claim Christian.

APPLICATION: A. As unto the Lord. To the Glory of God. How much would that change our attitude about work? Is this God glorifying? Am I being faithful witness in how I work or where I work? **Christian's attitude, tone, descriptions, discussion, conversations with/about, should look different.**

II. Words (3-5)

- A. **If you Teach/Share/Distribution of information, make sure it is true.** Not just what will grab people's attention. Click bait. Views. Shares. Likes. Big Eyes. Laughter. Subscriptions.
- B. **Some people have an Unhealthy Craving for quarrels/controversies/conspiracies/debates.**
- C. **These things cause** Envy, Dissension, Slander, Evil, Suspensions, Pride, Self-Righteousness, etc.
- D. **Constant friction among people,** depraved in mind (can't reason with them), waste of time, etc.
- E. ***1 Corinthians 1:18-31*** - Gospel is foolish to wisdom of world. But for us it's hope. Why waste?

APPLICATION: A. Social Media. Facebook comments/posts. Retweets. Shares. Reposts. Debates. Conversations. Our words. Are they God glorifying? When we call people idiots? When we mock people? When we boast about ourselves and our achievements? When we lie?

B. Gossip/Slander - Lunch, Water Cooler, Friends, Most gossip occurs daily Spouses (my theory), etc

C. Truth. God is a God of Truth. Jesus is the Truth. HS is Spirit of Truth. The Devil is a liar, and Satan is the Father of lies. When we lie, we are partnering with the Devil and made ourselves to be enemies of Jesus. We've become a traitor and committed treason against our Lord, Savior and King. How does it hit you? Even those "little" white lies, half truths, incomplete confessions, flat out lies/denials, embellished stories, they're all fruits of the Devil, not fruits of the Spirit of Truth. Accuser. Slanderer. Insulter.

III. Money (6-10)

- A. **Blind Spot of Americans?** \$25,000+ then you're in the top 10% wealthiest in the world.
- B. **Rich or Poor.** Great or Little. Anyone can be a lover of money. Anyone can be a good steward.
- C. **Anyone who desires to rich.** Temptation. Snare of the Devil. There are some who are just good at business savvy, good at saving and spending well, investing well, main goal isn't wealth.
- D. **Honor God in your Financial Handling and Work Ethic.** Others: "Millionaire by age 25."
- E. **Love Money is root of all kinds evil:** Slavery/Cruelty, Lying, Stealing, Injustice, etc. Self-Indulgence, Selfishness, Self-Love.

ILLUSTRATION: Roots. The root determines the fruit. Rooted in Jesus? Col.2:6-7. Where's your heart?

What is it rooted in? Where your money is there your heart will be also. Matt.6:21. Bank/Card Statement?

APPLICATION: A. Stuff: Earning money. Starts to get pretty attractive. Fun.

B. Tithing: OT: 10% of crops/income/living/production means. This was actually very generous of the LORD. When most nations would've require a lot more. 20-40% was common. Maybe even the exact opposite. Give 90% and keep 10% to live on along w/ your house. 1/5 Joseph/Egypt.

C. Average Church Attender/Christian gives 2.5% of income. 21% give 10%. 25% give nothing.

Robbing God? What is 10%? **\$25K:** \$2.5, **\$50K** \$5k, **\$90k:** 9/yr, **\$130K:** \$13/yr. Cheerful/Grateful.

D. Verses 17-19: This is almost all of us. Give generously. Because the Lord provides everything.

CONCLUSION: I> Why Serve? Because Jesus Served us Phil.2:5-11. **II> Why not lie/insult?** B/c Jesus is the Truth who gave us Spirit of Truth, and when he was insulted he didn't insult back 1 Peter 2:23 **III> Why be Generous?** B/C Jesus has generously given us. 2 Cor. 8:9. Christ became poor for us.

Ephesians 6:5-9

5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. 9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Colossians 2:6-7

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

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