

HANDOUT STEWARDSHIP PART ONE: Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship

C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity...Every Faculty You have, Your Power of Thinking or of Moving Your Limbs from Moment to Moment, is Given You by God. And If You Devoted Every Moment of Your Life Exclusively to His Service, You Could Not Give Him Anything that Was Not in Reality His Own Already.

1 Peter 4:10 Speaks to Our Responsibility: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Bill Peel's Essay Entitled Leadership Is Stewardship gives us 4 Important Principles about Biblical Stewardship that Build a Framework to Unpack our Biblical Understanding of Stewardship.

1.The Principle of Ownership Psalm 24:1 *The Earth is the LORD's, and Everything in it, the World, and All who Live in it.*

This is the Fundamental Principle of Biblical Stewardship. God Owns Everything, We are Simply Managers or Administrators Acting on His Behalf.

- Therefore, Stewardship Expresses Our Obedience Regarding the Administration of Everything God has Placed Under Our Control, which is ALL Encompassing.

Stewardship is Committing Ourselves and Our Possessions to God's Service, It Is Recognizing that we do Not have the Right of Control Over Our Property or Ourselves.

DEUT. 8:17-18 *You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.*

2. The Principle of Responsibility. Although God Gives Us "All Things Richly to Enjoy," Nothing is Ours!

- POINT: *We're Responsible for How We Treat it and What We Do With It.*
- Owners Have Rights...Stewards Have Responsibilities.
- KEY: We are Called as God's Stewards to Manage that Which Belongs to God.

God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns as his stewards, we are responsible to manage his holdings well and according to his desires and purposes.

Each of us has a Divine Responsibility. A Manager Oversees the Owner's Assets for the Owner's Benefit. A Manager Carries NO Sense of Entitlement to the Assets he or she Manages.

The Job of a Manager is to Find Out what the Owner Wants Done with His Assets and then to Carry Out His Will. **This Understanding Affects How We Give our Time, Abilities and Resources.**

NOTE: *"Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and We are Under the Most Solemn Obligation to Improve it to His Glory...I Believe that No Talent He has Given Us...Will He Require a More Strict Account than of Our Time and Abilities Being Use to Build His Kingdom."*

3. The Principle of Accountability. A Steward Manages the Possessions of Another.

- We are All Stewards of the Resources, Abilities and Opportunities that God has Entrusted to Our Care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us.

READ Matt 8:14-30 The Maxim Taught by the Parable of the Talents. *God has Entrusted Authority Over the Creation To Us and We are NOT Allowed to Rule Over It As We See Fit. Instead...We are Called to Exercise Our Dominion Under the Watchful Eye of the Creator Managing His Creation in Accord with the Principles He Has Established.*

Like the Servants in the Parable of the Talents, We will be Called to Give an Account of how We have Administered Everything We have Been Given...Including Our Time, Money, Abilities, Information, Wisdom, Relationships, and Authority.

KEY: We Will ALL Give Account to the Rightful Owner as to How Well We Managed the Things He has Entrusted to Us.

4. The Principle of Reward. In Colossians 3:23-24 Paul writes: *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

KEY: *The Bible shows us in the parables of the Kingdom that Faithful Stewards who do the Master's Will with the Master's Resources can Expect to be Rewarded "Incompletely" in this Life...But "Fully" in the Next.*

When we See Christ Face to Face...We should long to hear the master say what he Says in Matthew 25:21: *Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!*

If the Examination were Tonight...If the Owner Called You to Give an Accounting this Evening... What Would the Record Say About Your Managing All that He has Entrusted to YOU?

- Would it Reflect a Humble Belief that You are Only Managing what He Owns?
- Would Joy and Cheer Mark Your Life as One who Gives Generously of Your Time, Treasure and Talent, Because You Know Your Investment is Gaining Heavenly Treasure for You?

"LIFE" POINT: FAITHFUL STEWARDS UNDERSTAND ITS ALL HIS AND INVEST IT FOR AN ETERNAL REWARD!