

HANDOUT PART 3: EN [TRUST] ED WITH A GREATER LEVEL OF STEWARDSHIP

2 Cor 9:6-7 Remember this: Whoever Sows Sparingly will Also Reap Sparingly, and whoever Sows Generously will Also Reap Generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, Not Reluctantly or Under Compulsion, for God Loves a Cheerful Giver.

>>>The Size of A Person's Gratitude Will Dictate the Scope of Their Sowing and the Size of Their Harvest!

KEY: MEAGER SOWING PRODUCES SMALL HARVESTS READ Luke 12:16-21

POINT: God Takes Stewardship Seriously...Not Just How We Use What He Has Entrusted to Us, But the Heart Behind It...So That Others Will See Christ In US! **2 Cor 9:7** *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

The Primary Factor that Makes Us A Cheerful Steward Is "A Life Intimately Spent With Christ".

The Result of an Intimate Life in Christ is that...Our Lives Will Radiate Matt 22:37-39

- Faithful Stewards "Love God" With All Their Hearts, Souls and Minds...To Love God Requires We Know Him Intimately. This Requires Communing with Him in His Word.

Faithful Stewards...Love God and Put Him First. Matthew 6:33

Faithful Stewards have an...Undivided Love. They Make God Their First Priority. Ps 73:25

- 1 John 2:15 says, We cannot love this present world and God at the same time.
- 2 Timothy 4:10 says, love for what the world offers can lead us astray.

Faithful Stewards Love God and Desire Him...They Yearn for His Righteousness, His Word, and His grace. Psalm 42:1; Psalm 34:8; Luke 10:39

- *"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God".* If we love God, the psalmist's description of the Word of God in Psalm 19:8-10. will resonate within us.

A Faithful Stewards' Love for God Causes Them to Obey Him. Jesus tells us, *"If you love me you will obey what I command".*

- This is not a matter of merely following rules and registering good deeds. It is About Having God's Love Written Indelibly On Our Hearts.
- When we love God, we will want to please Him and obey His commands eagerly.
- Psalm 40:8 "I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart."

A Faithful Stewards Love for God...Empowers Them to Love their Neighbors as Themselves...

- In Matthew 22:39 Jesus says, *"Love your neighbor as yourself." 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

In this Verse, Jesus is Quoting here from Leviticus 19:9-18. Which says...

- When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall NOT reap the corners of your field, nor gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall Not glean your vineyard, or gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger:
- You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.
- You shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him.
- The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.
- You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty.
- You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.
- You shall not hate your brother. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD"

KEY: If You Love Others As Yourself You Will Be Concerned About their Eternal Destiny!

- We Know that anyone who does not have a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ will die in his sins and face eternity in hell.
- Therefore, we owe it to our neighbors to lovingly share with them the Good News of the Gospel.
- As True believers we have been Forgiven, Possessing Eternal Life, and Enjoy Blessings Forever as the result of Someone Who Shared the Gospel with us.
- *God's love is evidenced in us as We Communicate this Precious Gospel and Love Others as we have Been Loved.*
- This Love for Others, requires that we also Love and Pray for our Enemies.

Finally...Living a Life of True Stewardship...Requires that We Do it With a Cheerful Heart. Thankful For Everything that God has Entrusted to Us...Every Relationship, Every Opportunity, Every Moment, Every Talent and Every Resource!

An Important Point For Stewards...The Benefit of Stewardship is Lost When A Steward Does it With a Grumbling Heart!

- When a Person Gives of His Seed Grudgingly, He Becomes Blind to the Needs of Others and Fails to Recognize or Remember What the Lord Jesus Did for Him.

At that Point...The Actual Act of Giving has the Opposite Effect in A Person's Life!

- **Voluntary, Sacrificial Stewardship Develops a Tender Heart of Gratitude and Joy.**
- Grudge Stewardship Develops Bitterness and a Hard Heart...This is Why The Lord Tells Us to Keep Our Gift if We are Going to Gripe About it.

Godly Stewardship Gives Without Being Pressured. We Should Not Give Based On: The Demands of Others...The Pressure of Emotional Appeals...Public Embarrassment...Or Arbitrary Standards.

Our Giving Should Always be Based on Our Love for Christ and Those He Loves!

God Desires that We Give with a Heart of Cheerful Praise and Thankfulness

- Cheerful Means Joyous Or Doing something Ungrudgingly. It is Where We Get Our English Word "Hilarious"
- *The Best Image of this is of SCROOGE Who Learned The Blessing of Giving After Being Visited by 3 Spirits the Night before.*

God's Fundamental Level Of Stewardship Is Found In – 1 Corinthians 10:31 "*So Whether You Eat or Drink or Whatever You Do, Do It All for the Glory of God*".

I've Heard it Said that there are 3 Types of Stewards in the World...The FLINT...The SPONGE and The HONEYCOMB...

Each Give Something...

- The FLINT Will Give When Struck...
- The SPONGE Will Give When Squeezed.
- And the HONEYCOMB Will Simply...OVERFLOW!

"LIFE" POINT: MAY WE BE GODLY STEWARDS THAT CHEERFULLY OVERFLOW!