

Stewardship

Part 4 – Sacrifice

1 Tim. 6:9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Mt. 6:31 ...do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Biblical stewardship: using God-given resources to accomplish God-given goals.

Obedience is what God expects of every believer.

When I obey God with my money, I experience God's blessing and His peace.

If I'm not obedient, I can't be generous.

Obedience is when I give what is required; Generosity is when I give more than is required.

2 Cor. 9:11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

There is wonderful joy in generous giving.

The top level of the stewardship pyramid is sacrifice.

Phil. 2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Phil. 2:5-8 Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human!

Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that - a crucifixion. (The Message)

Sacrifice: The surrender or destruction of something prized or desirable for the sake of something considered as having a higher or more pressing claim.

Sacrifice redefined:

Going without something I want.

Delaying something I want.

Taking a temporary break from something I enjoy.

Inconvenience.

Pastor Rod's definition of sacrifice: giving up something I need or something I must have so someone else can have what they need.

Phil. 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Principle: God responds to uncommon sacrifice with uncommon blessing.

Obedience asks: “How much am I required to give?”

Generosity asks: “How much can I give?”

Sacrifice asks: “How much can I do without? What can I give up?”