

Christian Stewardship

(Based upon materials from the Christian Stewardship Association)

Christian Stewardship:

- is the recognition of God's sovereignty through creation and is a grateful response to God's goodness and his most precious gift that we have already received, 'the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.'
- is "the end result of a consciousness of the reality of God's creative goodness and his presence in the world." (G Ernest Thomas)
- is a response to the love of God, as revealed in Christ, by using all these gifts toward fulfillment of Christ's mission in the world. The Christian steward manages and cares for all the resources God has given, using them for the building of God's kingdom.
- can be defined as all that I do...with all that I have...all of the time...after I have said "I believe".

The Basics of Stewardship

- Everything comes from God.

"You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."

(Deuteronomy 8:17 NIV)

- What we have is only under our control for a time (we come into this world with nothing, we leave with nothing).
- This puts us in the position of being stewards.
- A steward is a person who is in charge of something that belongs to someone else.
- The steward must give an account of the use that he/she makes of all that is entrusted to him.

"Give an account of your management"

(Luke 16:2 NIV)

(The parable of the Dishonest Steward)

Christian stewards accept:

- life, including abilities, power influence, and money as gifts from God that are to be held in trust for Him and used according to His will.
- that while seeking to develop these gifts to the fullest, they will use them to fulfill God's purpose.
- responsibility for the well-being of all people, giving them the opportunity to develop their full potential.
- the family as a trust from God and seek to provide the atmosphere in which each member can realise his or her fullest potential.
- every person is a child of God, worthy of equal worth. The exploitation of any person by other individuals, groups, or systems is rejected.
- the Church (the people of God) as the principal resource that God has given us for the extension of God's mission into the community and into the world.
- the gospel as a trust from God. They seek to understand it and try to be faithful custodians of its liberating and reconciling truth. They seek to proclaim it to others so that they may see its relationship to the whole of life.
- material resources as given in trust from God so that they may be maximised for God's purposes. Stewards strive to increase the productivity of the world without exploitation and to make it possible for others to share in this bounty.
- power and influence as a trust from God and endeavor to administer them according to the purposes of God. They encourage others to do likewise.
- this world with its tremendous resources as a trust from God, seeking to understand what God is doing in the events of history and through technological developments. They endeavor to be involved in the decisive issues facing society. They strive to penetrate the arena of secular society with the Good News of Jesus Christ.