

A Discourse on Stewardship

God created everything so owns everything. He allows the use of them for our needs and for His purposes. To say we are an owner of anything and not just as steward of them is to make them an idol by replacing God's ownership of them with our imagined ownership of them

They are an idol as they displace God with something else.

A citizen of The Kingdom of God can only ever be a steward of all they have. The moment they become its owner and not a steward of the item it no longer belongs to The Kingdom of God.

While you know you are a steward and not an owner of what God give you, you no longer control things for your own purposes but seek to maintain them for God in accordance with the guidance The Holy Spirit gives you in regard to these objects

Because God owns everything you can only ever be a steward of what you have and can never be the owner of it.

2 Cor 4: 1–2 In this way, let us be esteemed by you as Ministers of The Messiah and the stewards of the mysteries of God. Now, henceforth, it is required in stewards that a man should be found being faithful.

It is requirement by God, that stewards are faithful in caring for what they have been given. How you have been faithful in the care of the things you have been given stewardship over may determine your eternal salvation.

Stewardship is an act of faithful obedience and a careless steward, who is deliberately careless, is in danger of losing their salvation (Rev 3:5).

Our Christian life is based on faith:

Our faith in God's promises and stewardship of us

The faith of God in our stewardship of what He has given us.

Without faith it is impossible to please Him. This applies especially to stewardship

Stewardship

God created all out of love for what He created. There can be no other possible reason for creation. As its Creator He immediately became steward of all He created, which includes us. So, He was responsible for their care and welfare.

Those things that do not have free will (flowers, animals etc.) He cares for without their needing to ask for anything or know He is caring for them.

We who have free will He will do for us what we do not know we need done or cannot do. But those things that requires our agreement with He can only do if we ask or let Him know we would like Him to do them for us or He will go against our free will unless what we are doing goes against His Kingdom in some way.

This is one reason why we pray. To tell God our desires. So, He can bring these into existence (if they are in accordance with His Will). He will not do that which He knows goes against our free will.

If Jesus is our Lord so that we accept all He does for us, we can give Him permission to do whatever is necessary to be done for us without having to wait for us to agree with Him in the thing He is

doing. This permission can also be given where there is a discretion to be exercised requiring our input in some way. This allows God to carry out His Stewardship in these areas without any hindrance from us needing to agree with His plans for us.

A prayer like:

Lord Jesus I give you permission to do whatever you need to do in my life without needing to ask my permission.

Where The Bible is clear on a matter then that is to be followed. But where our free will is involved in some way then we need to give Jesus permission to do what He needs without Him having to ask you. So that He can work as He needs too without requiring our agreement every time our free will is involved.

Obedience (submission of our will to His Will) is a form of good stewardship.

Definition of stewardship (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

Stew: A room or place

Ward: A keeper

The word originally referred to an important person in the household like a chamberlain or Chief butler who had authority over the household on behalf of the owner. They carried out the wishes of the owner and not their own desires.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary further comments as follows:

A minister of Christ whose duty is to dispense the provision of The Gospel, preach it's doctrines and administer its ordinances.

Unless it is for the purposes of The Kingdom, it is not the duty of a minister to promote a denomination, church, association and similar organizations or their principles. Remember, Jesus does not recognize denominations, churches or parachurch bodies, but only The Body of Christ and the subgroups in it of local assemblies and families.

We are all ministers (servants) of Jesus or should be and as a good steward should look after everything Jesus has given us: mental (mind/soul), physical and spiritual (our spirit) as well as anyone or anything else He has trusted to us for a season).

Perhaps the most important things He has trusted us with are the things of The Kingdom of God and unless we are caring for these things we are missing doing what He requires of us. Everything is really Kingdom based revolving around its King, Jesus, and what He has done for the citizens of The Kingdom.

God is our example of stewardship

God maintains everything in the universe without being asked too. He does only what is best for it. He never looks away from what He is steward of but closely watches it so He can care for it in a perfect way. If He looked away it would cease to exist!

He puts the need of the universe before His own needs and selflessly maintains it for our benefit.

Study how God is steward of all there is and you will understand the requirement of a good and faithful steward.

Stewardship needs to be ordered

You may need to study about something you are steward of to be able to care for it properly. For example:

Care of your body may require you to learn its dietary needs, its exercise needs, how to dress modestly and in an ordered way, how to rest it and maintain its health etc.

Care of your finances may require you to learn how to budget, how to obtain the best value for bank accounts, credit cards, purchases and investments, how to give to others in the way God desires you to give etc.

Care of your family may require you to study how a Godly family lives, learn relationship skills, how to deal with problems in a Godly way, learn how to study the Bible so you know how God wants you raise and discipline your family, etc.

Being a steward requires the making of choices and you may need to learn how to do this in the way God desires you too.

You may need to learn how to put your life in order. Disorder comes from Satan as he tries to destroy or hinder your Christian life and witness (of which stewardship is a major part). If you find disorder in your life you need to find out how the demons were able to cause it and then remove the demons behind it.

Stewardship and Authority

All stewardship involves authority. If God has not given you the authority over something you cannot be steward of it.

Authority can be divided into various categories: Delegated authority over Satan

Legal authority over things

Temporary spiritual authority (for the purpose of mentoring another)

Domestic authority

These are explained as follows:

Delegated authority over Satan is granted by Jesus. It is the only authority He has delegated to us (Matt 16:17-18). (Stewardship is a type of delegated authority. Not for the purposes of deciding what happens to something. But for the purpose of controlling, it correctly so its owners' wishes for the item will be correctly carried out.

Legal authority is granted by the laws of the land and is to do with the administration of the things of man.

Spiritual authority belongs solely to Jesus (1 Pet 2:25). Sometimes a type of spiritual authority is granted to a person over another for the purposes of mentoring them. It is an authority the person being mentored allows the person mentoring them to have for the purposes of being trained by the mentor. It is not delegated spiritual authority but is allowed by Jesus for the purposes of The Kingdom. Any other use of it may be sin if it is deliberately done.

Once mentorship (this temporary spiritual authority) is over then we are all equal again before God and are to help each other and not just be helped by the former mentor. You do not have to be more

mature than the person you are to help. Only hear The Holy Spirit and tell them what He tells you to tell them or do for them.

Any authority needs to be delegated in writing by the person authorised to delegate the authority. Jesus did not delegate in writing spiritual authority of one person over another so man has no authority to delegate spiritual authority so we cannot use anything man has written to use as a basis for the claiming of spiritual authority over another.

Nowhere in The Bible has Jesus declared any person, bar Himself, as having spiritual authority over another, so for anyone to claim this spiritual authority over another may be sin and is incorrect.

Domestic authority is purely for the purposes of order in the home. It is control for the purposes of The Kingdom and the King. So that the family and its members are matured into useful citizens for the King and His Kingdom. It is also to be exercised in God's type of Love so it is not a dictatorship but a shared rulership with the man having the final say in domestic matters (as guided by The Holy Spirit).

If a man loves his as Jesus Loves her he will do nothing to harm her and will do only what is good for her and she will willingly obey her as he will only be doing what is good for her..

This is the only headship The Bible gives one person over another.

As it can be seen no man has spiritual authority over others delegated to him but can have a form of it for the purposes of the King and His Kingdom.

People need to learn to correctly use these types of authority (delegated or implied). And the only real way to use them correctly is to use them in accordance with the will of God as told to you by the Holy Spirit.

All stewardship can only be properly carried out under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, either as He reveals the principles in The Bible that applies to the situation or guides you personally through communicating the will of God to you in regard to the stewardship situation at hand.

Like everything else in The Kingdom, the motivation for serving Jesus in any area is love and thankfulness for what He has done for you which includes allowing you to be a steward of His things.

Pastors and others in Authority

Pastors and similar have stewardship and not ownership over those God has trusted them to help. So, they do not have headship over them but carry out the wishes of Jesus the owner of these people. That is why in Acts 6 they are told to give themselves to prayer, fasting and the ministry of the word so they can carry out those stewardship obligation effectively.

The minister needs to be guided by The Holy Spirit so they can hear the guidance of The Holy Spirit in regard to how they are to be stewards of those things given to them by Jesus to take care of.

To control how they serve others from the reasonings of their own mind instead of the Guidance of The Holy Spirit, replaces Jesus in this area and declares they are the owners of the people they are helping. This is idolatry and rebellion against Jesus.

Stewardship and love

True Love is very precious to God and He expects you to treasure it as a rare jewel... A jewel rare in the sensuous world of the kingdom of darkness. It is through their love

the early Christians were marked in their sensual times. Should it be any different now? Only as God's Love is expressed through us in a loveless world will people see anything worthwhile in our faith!

Stewardship is a natural expression of and response to God's love for you. Everything belongs to Him and if you love Him you will look after His things as a priority whether they have been given to you or to others to care for.

Stewardship is also a natural expression of your love. If you love someone, you will naturally care and look after them and what they love and own.

As in all things, stewardship must be related back to the Will of The King. So that what you do becomes an expression of Him and His Kingdom.

Remember, when Jesus offers you anything it is not in isolation from the King. In a sense, whatever you do to it you do to Him (Matt 25:40)

Stewardship is part of the Matt 6:33 walk. So, if you seek to perform your stewardship role correctly, God will help you in any way you need for you to be a good steward and to live as He desires you to live.

Everything God has given you to be steward of has been for your benefit. They are given to help you live in the way Jesus desires you to live as well serve Him in the way He desires you to serve Him.

So, you can see, stewardship is not just a one-way thing (benefiting God by looking after His things). But is also beneficial to you through looking after your own interests as you care for and maintain that which God has given you to benefit you and mature you into what He desires you to be.

Stewardship performed properly is also a form of worship because you are saying to God that He is worthy of being loved and followed, and that His things are worthy of being cared for.

A good steward does not think of what he needs to have to be a good steward, as he trusts his master to provide them. He concentrates on what his master has given him to do in regards to the things his master has made him steward of. He cannot do his master's will and his own will unless they align together. A good steward will always want to do what his master desires him to do with the things his master has given him to be steward of.

The master will only ever give Him what He needs so to have more than the master has given him will distract him from his stewardship duties caring for things he should not have to be concerned about caring for.

Remember that you will not be a perfect steward from the beginning as stewardship is learned by study, guidance of The Holy Spirit and experience. The learning of it is also one reason we have families. Parents are to teach their children to be good stewards of what they have.

Remember that all God requires of you is to try wholeheartedly to serve Him in whatever task He gives you. It does not matter whether you succeed or not. As long as you wholeheartedly try to do His Will, His Way. You will be judged on your attitudes and not your results when you face Jesus.

Stewardship of The Kingdom of God

One of responses to the Love God has shown to us, is to love His Things and protect them. The Kingdom is primarily God's Love to us. Any person who loves God will protect The Kingdom and anything else of God, like His Name, Honour and Glory and laws. This activity should be a natural

expression of your life. If it is not you had better find out why and fix anything you need too immediately. Your salvation may depend on it.

Steward for the Body of Christ.

You are a steward of anything God has given you. Not just for Jesus but for The Kingdom, represented on earth by The Body of Christ.

Who knows (apart from God) who will next receive an object you are steward of. And if you love the people in The Body you will always give what is good (which has been correctly cared for) and not that which is inferior or rubbish.

We are stewards 24 hours a day, seven days a week and everything we do requires us to deal with it properly as a good steward of it.

Matthew 25:40 and Stewardship

Jesus owns everything and all belongs to His Kingdom (except where he has allowed Satan to rule it in accordance with the principles of scripture). If it represents Him (or His Kingdom), whatever you do to it in a sense you do to Him as it affects His Rule. It is only as you play your part in The Kingdom properly will you serve the King and The Body as you should and be a steward of His things in the way He desires you to be.

1. In this way, let us be esteemed by you as Ministers of The Messiah and the stewards of the mysteries of God.

2. Now, henceforth, it is required in stewards that a man should be found being faithful.

Stewardship in the New Testament

There is not very much mentioned about stewardship in the New Testament but what it says is important.

There are rewards for being a good steward (in accordance with Heb

11:6).

(Luk 12:42) And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his house- hold, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

Remember, God's rewards are spiritual but at times can be in the physical. Whatever they are, they are designed to give you pleasure and/or equip you to serve on a higher level of the Christian life.

God has given us The Gospel to preach and defend

(1Co 4:1) Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

A steward must be faithful or the owner will remove him as steward of his property

(1Co 4:2) Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

If you do not look after what God has given you He cannot give you more and you may even lose that which he has given you to be steward of and it will be given to another. (See the principles in the parable of the talents Matt 25:15-28.)

People given temporary spiritual advisory/mentoring authority over another (for the purposes of mentoring them) must be faithful in this role.

(Tit 1:7) For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

Teachers (spiritual, educational or other) must be faithful in the task God has given them to do.

We are to use properly (as a good steward) the gifts and other things God has given us to minister with.

(1Pe 4:10) As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

If you do not use properly what God gives you He will not give you more until you use properly what He has given you. Otherwise, anything you obtain will come from Satan and be his version of whatever God desires to give you.

Stewardship and salvation

Salvation begins with a relationship and we are to be stewards of our side of the relationship maintaining it through obedience (Phil 2:12-

13). This stewardship of obedience also maintains the fellowship resulting from the salvation relationship we have with Jesus. It is through the correct stewardship of the relationship we have with Jesus that we can correctly enter into fellowship with others.

Every activity we do is a reflection of our obedience to God and the stewardship God has given us. If the activity is carried out in correct loving obedience, stewardship becomes worship and brings Him glory and will have fellowship implications with God and others.

It is because of these activities, our life has significance as they are the outworking of our loving relationship (fellowship and intimacy) with Jesus, and The Father as guided by The Holy Spirit.

As good stewards we will value the things God has given to us to care for and will care for them as a matter of utmost priority. Salvation is built around the fellowship we have with Jesus and The Father and stewardship will be an expression of how much we value this relationship (Jn 17:3) and our salvation. Obedience too and stewardship for are two of the main expressions of our love for Jesus and The Father in this salvation relationship.

Stewardship of the Mysteries of God

One of the greatest privileges we have is being a steward of the Mysteries of God! The truths of God that the world does not know.

We have a responsibility to preach, teach, live and demonstrate these to those who do not know Jesus.

This is one stewardship you definitely need to learn about and to develop so that you can be a fruitful, faithful citizen of The kingdom of God. Fail this test of stewardship and you possibly lose your salvation.

Sin and Stewardship

Stewardship is very important. Bad stewardship is one of the components of sin. Bad stewardship always results in sin of some sort. Sin is deliberately falling short of God's moral requirements and bad stewardship (if knowingly done) results in us failing God's requirements and is rebellion against King Jesus.

The other component of deliberate sin is the deliberate lack of love shown to the person sinned against which causes you to do the action resulting in the sin.

Satan tries to get you to misuse your life and be a bad steward of it so that God cannot use it as He desires too.

Sin is always a result of disobedience to God's Law of Love and is the result of Satan's successful attempt to control and mould you in some way in that area to his world's way of thinking. Sin is also abuse of stewardship turning something you have access to or contact with into an idol thus misusing your stewardship of the item. Anything put before God or His Purposes is an idol.

God owns everything and if it is knowingly not used for His purposes then it must be being used for your or Satan's purposes. Both of which are sin (deliberately doing something you know falls short of God's requirements of you and is disobedience to His Will for that object or thing)).

Adam's Sin

Then the LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it.

Adam was commanded to protect the Garden and cultivate it as a service to God. The Garden was part of the Kingdom of God and in it was the 'tree of the knowledge of good and evil' (Gen 2:17) which was also to be protected by Adam. So having been given care of the Garden He was commanded not to eat of one specific tree. His sin was not doing what He was told (be a good steward of the garden and that tree) so that the tree was not protected. He also failed in his stewardship of Eve (protecting her from evil) and as a result she ate of the forbidden fruit. So, both sinned as a result of Adam's poor stewardship. He sinned first but blamed Eve for the sin.

The first sin was Adam disobeying God and the second was Eve eating the forbidden fruit. His poor stewardship resulted in God being disobeyed because Adam did not do as God commanded Him. Namely to guard the garden.

So, sin entered the world through Adam's sin and not that of Eve.

The command not to eat the fruit was given to Adam and not Eve. So, Adam was responsible for its enforcement.

So, when Satan called Eve to doubt God's motives for not allowing her to eat the fruit, she believed the lie of the devil that it was for selfish reasons that God did not want her to eat the fruit. She doubted God's Love which is really the basis for all sin.

Adam did not protect Eve spiritually and also failed in his stewardship of her as domestic head of the household.

If she had trusted Adam she would not have listened to the devil. If Adam had been a better steward, he would have protected Eve and the tree.

Perhaps this is a wake-up call to Christians to tend what they have as good stewards of it. To do otherwise is sin and will lead to more sin. The negligence of Adam shows the importance of husband protecting their wife and children from being tempted.

A Warning

I begin this section with a warning.

Unless you are content with what God has given you or allowed you to have in the situation He has placed you in He cannot take you further in your walk as a Christian. He also cannot give you more to do and care of for Him. Because you have not learnt the lessons you need to learn to go further in your Christian maturity and ministry God has given you to do for Him. This is because you have not learnt to care contentedly for what you have already been given, either as possessions or ministry. It is also because you have not learnt to be a steward of what you have been given and until you do learn, God cannot trust you with more to be a steward of.

If you cannot love and care for the people Jesus has given you: wife, family, grandparents etc., how can He give you more people to care for (minister too) until you know how to love and care for those He has already given you.

If you cannot handle what you have been given or are not content with how God has allowed how you to be, Satan can attack or remove things till you start to appreciate what you have or are as a person.

Look at the “parable of the talents”. Those who had 10 and 5 talents appreciated what they were given and made more of them. He who had one talent did not appreciate what he had been given and did not use it for the King’s benefit as the others had. So, the king took the one talent away from him and gave it to another. If you do not use what God has given you or appreciate what He has done for you then you may find the ministry He had for you will be given to another along with all the blessings in that ministry.

Tim 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world; and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Stewardship of faith

You have no choice but to trust God and nurture your faith if you want to be a meaningful citizen of The Kingdom of God and a faithful steward of The Kingdom. To do this, you really have no choice but to grow in faith and trust in God. This means you need to successfully pass through the trials He gives you to do this. Successful stewardship of your trials results in growing in faith and trust in God.

Faithfulness and Stewardship (2 Cor 4:1-2)

1Co 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are stewards of the things God reveals to us and as a steward we must be faithful in our stewardship of these things.

God’s faithfulness is an expression of God’s Integrity. He is always faithful to His promises to you because of this.

He loves you and perseveres faithfully in this Love because He is true to His Character (and God is Love) so is not fickle or changeable in His love to you like hypocrites are.

If you love someone you will be faithful to them. So, if you really love God you will be faithful to Him. You will not do anything to hurt or offend Him.

This is how God deals with you and how you should relate to Him if you really love Him.

God's faithfulness is expressed in His Lovingkindness to us which combines the concept of Mercy, Compassion, Kindness and Grace. All of which are an expression of His Love.

The faithfulness which God requires is not perfect faithfulness. But is faithfulness carried out wholeheartedly to the best of your ability to be faithful. In other words, you are as faithful as you are able to be.

God has promised to never ask of you more than you are able to do (1 Cor 10:13). For him to ask you to do things perfectly would result in God asking you to do more than you are usually capable of doing. After all, only God is perfect and knows we will fail so all we can try is to do things to the best of our ability, which is all God desires and requires of us.

This is a principal that God follows when He asks you to do things. God prepares you for the service to Him. So, for Him to ask you to do more than He has prepared you for would not be showing His Love to you. He will never ask you to do more than you are capable of doing.

In other words, the faithfulness God requires you to do only that which you are capable of doing which is what He will only will ask you to do.

We are stewards of the things God reveals to us and as a steward we must be faithful in our stewardship of these things.

A faithful steward meets the needs of who or what they are steward of. So that its needs are met and it is maintained in a good condition, suitable for the purpose it is there for. The steward does not do anything to harm the thing they are steward of or to misuse it so that it is damaged in some way.

One of the roles of a citizen of The Kingdom of God is to be a faithful steward of what God has trusted them with. A Citizen of a Kingdom will care for the things of their King and will assist others (as directed by their King) with what others have been given stewardship of.

Any steward who is lazy or deliberately unfaithful in their stewardship role commits a sin (fall short of God's requirements as a steward). If this rebellion is continued with it can result in loss of salvation (Rev 3:5).

God is a faithful steward of all and is our example of stewardship. It is required of stewards that they are faithful;

Faithful to God's Love, Faithful to God's provision, Faithful to God's Purposes, Faithful to God's Kingdom.

Stewardship is reasonable

If you love someone and they have given you what you need, it is reasonable to love them back and to show you love them by looking after what they have given you. To do anything else is to be ungrateful to them.

So, if you love God and appreciate what He has given you then you will look after it and be a good steward of all He has given you. Bad stewardship shows emotional healing and/or deliverance is needed possibly along with repentance for being a bad steward.

Stewardship is a relationship:

A relationship with God

A relationship with the property or thing Jesus has given to you to be steward of

This is why we are to be faithful steward so as not to affect the relationship we have with God.

Are you a faithful steward?

Faithfulness is tied up with Love. If you love someone you will be faithful to them and will care (be a good steward) of anything to do with them.

If you Love someone with Gods type of Love you will serve them. Not for your benefit, as Satan's worldly type of love does, getting all you can get for yourself out of the relationship but you will serve them faithfully for their benefit.

Only as you faithfully serve God out of love for Him and those He sends you To serve on His behalf, will you satisfy God's requirement of you as His servant.

Stewards, Spiritual

Tit 1:7KJV For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

People in charge of other Christians are stewards on behalf of God and so do not deal with others according to their own reasonings or emotions but to deal with them in accordance with the way God tells them too. They are caretakers and not controllers of them on behalf of God.

The steward only does what their master tells them to do and the moment they use what they are stewards of for purposes other than that of their master they exceed their authority. They are then in rebellion against their master as they have not obeyed what He has said they could do with his possessions.

This is why it is so important to be able to hear The Holy Spirit so that He can lead you in the way God desires you to go.

Maintaining a church or teaching what a church believes (unless it agrees with the Bible of God) are not purposes for The Kingdom of God. Any person not promoting The Kingdom of God or its purposes in what they do is abusing their stewardship of the things God has given them to be a steward of.

KJV 1 Cor 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

The mysteries of God belong to heaven and not to the world run by Satan. Here we are told we are stewards of spiritual things we cannot see and other things of God that we can see that have been given to us by Jesus in accordance with Matt 6:33 so that we can do His work on earth. Jesus does not give us knowledge for the sake of knowledge but to apply it as He desires you to apply it.

Deu 29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Stewardship in the Bible is not just of physical things but things that cannot be seen that exist in our minds and hearts as well as the mind and hearts of others.

We are only required to be a steward of what we know we are stewards of and no more.

What if you are prevented from being a good steward? Ask God what to do as they are His things, then do what He tells you to do with them.

Love is the Basis of Stewardship

The basis of good stewardship is God's Love in us reflected to all around us: towards God, towards other people, towards ourselves and in the way we deal with the possessions we have been trusted with, so that all we do in regard to being a steward of these things, is based on our love for God and not greed.

Love serves another.

A steward serves God out of love for Him and also out of love for His people or things they are a steward of.

True stewardship is done out of loving service and not out of compulsion. It is loving service:

Firstly, to God, who has appointed them steward over the person or object,

Secondly, to the beneficiary of the different stewardships they have

We are told to do all things in God's type of Love and stewardship there is no exception to this.

The basis of all human relationships (as Satan's kingdom sees it) is how we value another because of their importance to us or because of how they can benefit us.

The basis of all Christian relationships is God's Love in us that values all life as He values it.

Mat. 5:43-47 ¶ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Human life is sacred to God as He created it and owns it. So, Satan tries to destroy and bring to destruction the life of a person and/or the things God uses against him in this world. It is God's Love in us that makes us hold life sacred and deal with others in God's type of Love.

Stealing

Stealing is usurping the stewardship of another and not the stealing of their actual possessions (after all the possessions are God's and they are just stewards of them so you are really stealing from God). It is actually rebellion against God's authority over the things given to that person to be steward of.

Covetousness is the desiring of something God has given stewardship of to another and which you do not need at that time or God would have given it also to you (Matt 6:33 applies).

The mania of 'keeping up with the Joneses' is an example of covetousness and pride and shows a need for some type of deliverance to remove the attitudes that makes this type of desire to keep up with the 'Joneses' be a part of their emotional needs.

Destroying or damaging something of someone else is destroying or damaging something God has given stewardship of to another as they need it to do the Will of God or He would not have given it to them.

In all of these you are directly opposing God's Will.

Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

All the above activities hinder The Kingdom of God and are marks of the kingdom of Satan. If voluntarily done and not repented of they will lose you your salvation (Rev 3:5). If done and you cannot stop doing them and you do not want to do them then you need deliverance

In the Christian life we do not own possessions as God owns them and we have been given them in trust to be used as He directs us to use them:

Firstly, as God requires His servants to use them for the purposes of His Kingdom,

Secondly, for our own families need so as to provide for their needs,

Thirdly, meet to our own personal needs and enjoyment and not our lusts or greeds. Overriding all this is the fact they must still be used in accordance with the Will of God.

Lastly, to provide for the needs (and not greeds) of others,

God's Property has been trusted to us (which includes out spirit, soul, body mind, love, desires, attitudes, emotions etc.), so that all we control can be used for His purposes and not just to hoard or satisfy our insecurities and lusts. We are to show God's Love in all we do just as His Love flows through all He purposes and does.

We are warned by Paul:

*1 Tim 6:6 ff Being able to live the Christian life and be content with what you have is a great asset.. We brought nothing into this world when we were born and we taking nothing material out of it when we die. And having food and clothing (what we need to live and do God's work) let us be satisfied and happy. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful desires, which result in their destruction and going to perdition (hell). For the love of money is the root of all evil: **which while some desired more than they should** have gone astray from the faith, and caused themselves many sorrows. But thou, O person of God, **flee these things;** and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

We are to be satisfied with what God determines we need and not desire that which is not necessary. This will prevent us doing things that we should not be doing, either to gain these desired items or as a result of having them and needing to take care of them instead of doing the work God has for us to do.

The idea of making a personal profit or interest is also foreign to The Kingdom as Jesus owns everything and it is all His profit. Rewards, however, are a part of the Kingdom of God but not in a profit making or profit taking sense. These rewards are an incentive. If you do well, you will be trusted with more responsibility and items to be steward of as well as have an eternal reward in your mansion in heaven where there is no decay or wearing out of things as there is on earth.

A Christian may be blessed with prosperity but this is so they can distribute it to others. There will be sufficient to give them enjoyment but they must remember they have been trusted by God to hold it on behalf of others as well.

Each person should have an attitude of stewardship towards their 'God trusted possessions' and not that of an owner. Which is why it is said in the Bible that it is required of stewards that they be found faithful (1 Cor 4:1-2):

Faithful with what God has trusted us with, Faithful in our relationship to Him

Faithful in our relationships to others,

The result of this attitude is that people will not get more than they need to, to do what God has asked them to do. Having more than you need is a form of security. It is not a reliance on God's promised provision and will also lead to sin. Maintaining these things also hinders your seeking the kingdom of God and His purposes as they distract you from this purpose with the extra activities and time required to keep and maintain these extra assets. Jesus advised us:

Mat 6:31 (GNB) "So do not start worrying: 'Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?'

Mat 6:32 (These are the things the pagans are always concerned about.) Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things.

Mat 6:33 Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.

Mat 6:34 So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings.

Obey God, seek Him and His purposes and let Him provide what you need for today and the future and you will not be distracted from His purposes seeking things that you do not need.

However, if God says to get something you do not seem to need you do it as you will find it will be needed soon. It is just you do not realise you will need it soon.

It will always require effort to be a good steward as well as to obtain any rewards associated with obedience. But the endurance to the end of the task is what is required to mature in the way God desires you to mature (1 Cor 15:58). The trials you face are necessary to obtain these rewards as well as to mature you in the way He requires you to, so He can use you more effectively in His Kingdom. Remember that God has promised to place in your path all you need to achieve these things (Matt 6:33).

Sometimes budgeting for expenses requires savings so that you do not over spend your finances. God might also want you to save for something He needs you to do. These savings are not done for security purposes, but as good stewards of what God has trusted you with.

Stewardship and Jesus.

Matt 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me

How is this possible that doing something to someone affects Jesus as well? This only makes sense if we are His stewards of all that is brought across our path by God. So that what you do to them you

do to Jesus, their owner. He is lord of all so all belongs to Him. So, whatever we do to anything or anyone is in a sense is done to Him as He is owner of them.

God owns all, which is why He can separate the 'sheep' (his followers) and the 'goats' (those that have rejected Him) at the Great White Throne Judgment as well as do with them what He pleases (within the guidelines He has set up for this current age Gal 6:7-8).

This is why serving (helping another) is important as you are being a good steward of 'what you can help a person with' as the person is His master's property and what you do to that person you do to and for its owner, God. It is also a reason for showing love to all as they are really His property and if we love Him we will look after His property on His behalf.

In a sense, all earthly relationships with other Christians are of value before God, the only difference being :

How God says you can relate to each other in the relationship

How much person is willing to trust you and expose themselves emotionally to you

The authority level God has given you in the relationship.

Any authority is only given you so you can serve your King and others better and not just for personal gain.

Preparation for heaven

Proper stewardship on earth is also a preparation for heaven where all show God's type of love in all they do which is what a steward needs to show as they express on earth, through their life. The Kingdom and the King's values.

Stewardship of your God-given life Ownership of your life

Does a Christian own their life? No! For two reasons:

Your spirit, soul and body are from God (Ps 100:3).

You were redeemed at Calvary and now belong to Jesus (1 Cor 6:20 and 7:23)

1 Cor 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

The spirit, soul and body are lovingly created and are owned by their maker, God. This is one reason why He can know when you will die and where you will go after your death. Your free will does not negate this and Satan cannot change this date of death. Your free will determines whether you rebel against Jesus or follow Him. As we are owned by God we should serve Him and do His will (Rom 12"1-3).

We are stewards of all our life and all else God has given us to look after for Him.

A steward serves another by looking after the things they have been trusted with. Stewardship is the way we serve God and others with what He has trusted us with. Obedience to His will is the key to correct stewardship of our will and of being a good steward of all He has given us to look after for Him.

People believe they own things but really everything is really a stewardship of items trusted to them or others by God. He made everything and owns everything and has trusted to His Body of followers the earth and all it has on or in it. There is thus a requirement to be a good steward of the part of the

earth and things on it (people, plants, animals, oceans etc.), and the things in it (minerals, oil etc.) that He has given you to look after for Him. Note: this is not what others say we should be doing, but what He says we should be individually doing. Having said that, we are still to look after what others are steward of (as they belong to God) but do not have primary stewardship of them but assist others in their stewardship of those items.

Ps 24:1 The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

We are not responsible for all the earth but only for that part of it Jesus has given to us to be stewards of on His behalf.

Satan will try to overload you with responsibilities for things God has not given you to be a steward of so that you need to take everything to Jesus to see if it is your responsibility where The Bible is not clear on a matter.

Our attitudes to giving, ministry, and our activities in daily living, either at work or home will only be correct if we understand all these are properly done as a part of stewardship of the things God has trusted to us.

Stewardship of a thing also involves warring against the enemy, Satan, to prevent him obtaining it, misusing it or compromising it. As a steward you are to protect what you have been given stewardship of, either physically or spiritually. So, any steward must be able to protect what they have been trusted with spiritually (where necessary) and not just preserve it physically.

Death and Stewardship

Do you have a right to complain or even grieve about the death of someone you love? A relative or pet for example?

God is owner of all. So, it is His right to determine when a person

will die. The timing will be best for all concerned. As you are not the owner of it, you cannot complain about the time of their death or what the owner (God) allows to happens to them.

There may be grief. But that needs to be tempered with the fact that what God has done is best for the deceased person. To say otherwise is to call God's Love into question.

Besides, separation between Christians because of the death of one of them is only for a short period. So, death, between Christians, is not a loss, but is a temporary separation till they meet again in heaven.

If you are going to weep, weep over those going to hell whom you will never see again.

Stewardship of life and its defence

God has made you steward of your life. You are to defend it at any cost unless He tells you otherwise. If a person tries to kill or hurt your body, then you can stop them. If necessary this means you may have to kill them (but only if God says you are to fight back). It is no use turning the other cheek if the person is going to hurt you. It is not being a good steward of your body if you do that.

Remember a demon is behind it so that you are really fighting demons and before the drastic step of murder in self-defence is taken, fight the demons and remove them and see if the threat goes.

I do not advocate killing anyone, except as is necessary in self-defence to protect the body Jesus has made you steward of or of others He has given you to be steward of, providing He tells you to fight.

Women and physical abuse

God has given the woman a life to be steward of and anything that threatens to harm it needs to be removed or if that is not possible then she is to remove herself from its threat.

So, if a woman is abused to the point that harm will come to her she has a responsibility to God to remove herself from that threat as well as any children she has been given stewardship of with her husband. If the abuse is from her husband it is usual that the children are also abused (if only from the results of seeing the mother abused) and need to be removed from the abuser as well.

Note: this is separation and not divorce. I believe deliverance of both parties can restore the marriage.

If a woman abuses a man then he has to leave with his children to preserve what he has been made steward of if there is any threat to his or his children's health, either emotional, mental, physical or spiritual.

Free Will, Stewardship of

The greatest gift from God and the most important thing we have been given is the stewardship of our free will - The ability to choose (within limits defined by God in His Bible) the activities we want to do – Including accepting or rejecting Him! As stewards we are accountable for how we use our free will and will give an account to God for the way we administered and used it.

It is free in the sense we can choose to follow God or choose to reject Him. But once we choose to follow His guidelines because we love Him, our will then serves Him and His Will for us to His will so the freedom, in a sense, is lost except for the continuing to choose His will over ours. But the loss is our gain, as the choices God has for us are better than those we can make for ourselves and the Joy and Peace that results is better than anything we can strive to obtain through our own efforts.

So, while we have free will, we willingly place it under the guidance of His will, making our love of and choice of Him and His things all the more precious in His sight.

Remember. The Father in heaven, Jesus and The Holy Spirit know our every need. To desire more than what they give us is to say they do not know what we need, which would mean they are not God. It really means we asking God for things He does not want us to have and if this desire is maintained it could make these improper desires an idol and a 'god' as you would value them more than God's Will for you!

The danger is that Satan may give us things wrongly to desire because God, in His Love for us, has not given them to us. So, Satan fills the vacuum in our life which this wrong desire has created in us. Then he overworks us with the effort required to keep these things and stops us doing properly what God desires us to do.

If we want things that we know are not in God's revealed will for us then these are idols and we are rebellion if they are obtained!

Remember, an idol is anything we voluntarily place either between God, our understanding of whom God is, His purposes or His Requirements of us and our self.

Besides, if a person is content with what God has given them, they will not ask for more. The desire might be there (being placed there by Satan) but nothing will eventuate from it being there as you will take it to Jesus to see what His Will is in the matter

Obedience is good stewardship of your free will!

If the stewardship of your free will is correct then all other stewardships will be in place. Because of this we are told to guard our heart (be a good steward of it) as its decisions determines our eternal fate.

Satan's desire is to ruin and destroy the things of God. He hijacked Adam and Eve and the kingdom of earth and has used his efforts since then to destroy God's control over it as well as the relationship people have with God and others. This is so he can rule both the earth and its people. As they reject God they move from God's Kingdom to that of Satan and become under his rule.

At Calvary, Jesus took off Satan the right to rule the earth and is now the rightful ruler of earth and all on and in it. Soon He will come back to claim it. His rule of 1000 years will show how the earth should have been ruled by Satan and that Satan's kingship was evil and corrupt and bad stewardship. God will be shown to be correct in punishing Satan, if only for the way Satan has abused, as a bad steward of it, what God allowed him to have stewardship of. Satan and his followers are not good stewards of what God has allowed them to have!

All who abuse the stewardships God has given them and follow the example of the world (Satan) in any way need to examine their salvation very carefully.

You will be required to give an account of what God has trusted you with. Your reward in heaven and perhaps even getting to heaven will depend on what you have done with your knowledge of Jesus as well as what you have done with what God has provided you to be His steward of and the way you used these in ministering to others. Have you used what you are steward of for God's Glory and the furthering of the Kingdom of God? Or have you kept them to yourself distributing knowledge of Jesus only when you had to or using what God has given you for your own selfish needs except when compelled to use these things for others.

What motives do you have in the use of the knowledge and possessions God has given you? Your own selfish needs or the Love you have for God, others and His Purposes?

It is this expression of God's type of Love through the way you are steward of things that may ultimately determine your eternal fate (Jn 13:34-35).

If you used what God has made you steward of for selfish purposes then you should make certain that you do not need deliverance. A follower of Jesus is not supposed to be selfish. You may have hurts you need to deliverance from before you can be a steward in the way Jesus desires you to be.

Suffering

You will only endure suffering to the degree you trust God's Love, Faithfulness and Stewardship of you in all that happens to you.

Unless you trust God's Love and faithfulness toward you. You will not trust His stewardship of you as well as the plans He has for you.

You are responsible for your attitudes to suffering and in this you are a steward of these attitudes.

Unless you believe God Loves you and is Faithful to you in all you do, you will not trust Him sufficiently to endure the suffering He allows you to go through.

Unless you trust God, your attitudes to suffering will not be correct. You will not suffer as you should and the lessons of the suffering will not be correctly learned.

Remember that Satan tries to have you not trust God's Love. So, you will not trust God and endure what God has asked you to do.

Stewardship and disasters

God owns everything and so has the right to remove any and all of what you or others are steward of. Whatever He does is best for your eternal life and not just for this earthly life.

He will replace them with what you need to mature to what He desires you to be and not to what you think you ought to be or have.

Often this is done to remove something that stops you knowing Him more intimately. Other times it is to test your faith and show to Satan you are worthy of doing what God has called you to do.

In these last days, God is removing things to replace them with better and more lasting things so that you will not need to try and replace them in the troubled times ahead when they may not be able to be replaced. He is also removing things from your life that do not belong to The Kingdom so that you will not be burdened by them when you minister in the days leading up to the Rapture when the last three great revivals will sweep this earth very soon.

Attitudes, Stewardship of

The basic question is really what your attitude is to the stewardship of the things God has trusted you with. This will determine how you express yourself in regard to them.

Our attitudes to giving, ministry, serving others and our activities in daily living, either at work or home will only be correct if we understand all these are properly done as a part of stewardship of the things God has trusted to us; either as relationships, assets, our mind and body or the spiritual things of God.

You will either do what God requires you to do or will do what Satan desires you to do. There are no other choices. By default, not doing what God wants done is doing what Satan desires done.

Stewardship of our mind

God has given us a will (mind) to train to what He requires it to be (a reflection of His mind). If we do not train this mind in the way He desires us too, it makes it very difficult to serve Him and we may end up with mental illness. Psychosomatic illness is also the sign of a mind which has not been properly cared for. The mind is so important it is the chief area Satan attacks and because of this we are to guard what goes into it. A bad steward will allow bad inputs into their mind. A good steward will allow inputs into their mind that God would approve of.

Satan will use anything in your mind that he is able to for the purposes of:

Tempting you, Confusing you, Distracting you, Side-tracking you (he uses deception and lies to do this to you)

Crowding your mind to block The Holy Spirit

Making you doubt that God Loves you

This means you must filter everything that enters your mind as well as keep it and the soul purified from anything Satan tries to put in there. This is how holiness is maintained and is the basis for how we pursue holiness. We filter out anything that would remove our holiness. In this also is our obedience maintained and our salvation preserved.

This also means you must educate it to be able to discern the things of Satan so that you know when he is trying to attack you in any way.

A knowledge of deliverance may also be necessary to remove anything Satan may manage to get into your soul or mind.

The five steps God revealed to me are a good way to help keep the mind pure and godly.

Free will, thoughts, emotions, attitudes, Stewardship of

These are all a gift from God. He did not have to give these to us but did. He could have made us like robots without a free will so that we could not sin but did not. This is why these things should be treasured and looked after as a good steward of them. The greatest of these attitudes to have is God's quality of love which should be treasured as it should be expressed in all the other attitudes we have. Be a careful steward of your love as if that is not correct all the other attitudes, will be out of place and not be expressed correctly.

Speech, Stewardship of

Matt 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

James 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

Titus 2:8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

What you say to another in a in a sense you are saying to Jesus so you should speak to others as you would speak to Jesus.

Matt 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

In regard to jokes: If you laugh at a person it is a lack of love. If you laugh with a person it is compassion. To be able to laugh at yourself shows a healthy mind.

Stewardship of You

Soul: cleanse it of demons, give it to Jesus for Holy Spirit to live in

Mind: discipline it to think only Godly thoughts and to hear the Holy Spirit as you interact with Him

Body: exercise it, eat properly

Spirit: keep it holy and pure and develop your relationship with The Holy Spirit so you are in constant dialogue with Him and can always hear His guidance of you.

These are priorities if you want to be a good steward of your soul.

Deliverance is usually necessary to start doing this properly.

Stewardship of the flesh

1Co 9:27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, so that after preaching to others I myself will not be rejected by God.

We are told that the spirit and the world (flesh) are in bitter conflict with each other. The flesh is based on the attitudes of the world so that you need to discipline yourself to remove these or they will control you in some way.

So, stewardship of who you are involves removing all that the flesh (the demon manipulating it) can use against you.

If you know you are to look after your body as a good steward of God and do not do so is deliberate unrepentance which will cause you to lose your salvation? After all it is in continual disobedience to God who has told you to look after your body. Deliverance may be necessary if an addiction is causing you to have trouble looking after your body.

Employment and service, Stewardship of

A good steward serves God and as a result of this also themselves and/or others. Things are held on behalf of God to be used as God directs, either for the benefit of others or for the needs of those they have responsibility to support in this world.

A good steward always serves God and this results in correct service to others.

An employee is a servant of both God and the employer and so must be a good steward of what the employer trusts them with to please both God and the employer. In other words, how you do your work for your employer may affect your salvation in a major way.

Time, Stewardship of

Eph 5:15–16 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

What does it mean to 'redeem the time?' Two meanings of 'redeem' are:

To do something that changes a negative opinion to a positive one

To make something acceptable or pleasant in spite of its negative qualities or aspects

The concept is to use something that is usually misused in way that is good.

Satan places on people an urgency to do things so they do not either seek God's way of doing things or God's timing for an action so they rush things, make mistakes and hinder God's plans through this and miss out on God's blessings, sometimes making decisions that appear to ruin their life. God can turn this around if they obey Him (Gen 50:20)

We are told to walk carefully in all we do, listening to God for His guidance and not letting Satan rush us into doing things. This way we use time that Satan wanted us to waste or misuse for the purposes and Glory of God.

The fool ignores God and acts according to impulse and emotions. The wise man does not react, become angry, reason out things from a humanistic point of view or assume things but asks The Holy Spirit what to do if God's guideline for something is not clear or apparent. The danger is that Satan

uses these attitudes to guide how to handle a situation because we do not take time to listen to what God wants us to do so he places his suggestions in our mind and we accept them.

God has given us 24 hours a day for our use. If we do not fill the time with Godly things demons will fill it with ungodly things at the expense of our faith and witness. This is why we should spend time talking to God first thing in the morning before the day starts (our interaction with the world) so God can speak to us first before Satan gets in (Mark 1:35, the example of Jesus).

This does not mean we do not need to rest or relax. The seventh day is a time of rest and focus on God. A day of relaxing in the things He has given us to enjoy (Him, our family and similar) in the way He wants us to relax and enjoy them.

Each morning greet The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit. Give the day to them and spend some time with them in fellowship and at night the last thing you should do is say good night to The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit, thank them for the day and give them your sleep.

Sabbath day rest, Stewardship of

Gen 2:3 (MSG) God blessed the seventh day. He made it a Holy Day Because on that day he rested from his work, all the creating God had done.

In the creation week God gave us The example of resting on the seventh day (Gen 2:23). He set it apart for His purposes (sanctified it).

By sanctifying it. He declared it belonged to Him and His purposes. This means you need to know what the purposes God has for the Sabbath are and then do them.

Stewardship of the day of rest means you need to know what the purposes of God are for this day and then do them as a good steward.

The days did not have any names in the creation week that we know of. So, there was only God's rest on the last day of the working week as our example of when to rest. As The Mosaic Law no longer applies, your Sabbath is determined by God.

This day of rest can be any day of the week. As long as it is set aside to focus on God and the family and not on the things of Satan's world system.

If you are an employee, your days of rest will be determined by your employer. If it is not determined by your work or employment then The Holy Spirit will determine it for you.

It is not determined by denominations or churches, But by where God places you in your work or employment.

The church met on the first day of the week so they would not break the Sabbath rest because many, in the beginning, were Jews. However, there is no day set aside in the New Testament specifically for the seventh day rest. Paul even says that all day are equal to those who are truly free

from the law (Rom 14:15) and it is up to you what to decide what type of day it is – a day of rest or a work day

Whatever day it is it will fit in with whatever employment Jesus wants you to have at that time, but regardless of the day there must be a day of rest to get away from the world and appreciate God and His world as well as what He has done for you.

When the world is under the rule of Jesus in the Millennium, then all will worship on The Sabbath day of rest, but now one must worship and rest when they are able too.

Stewardship of giving

The Christian life is one of loving service, the giving of our time and selves to serve God and as He directs to serve others.

Giving of what we are steward of is proper administration of what God gives to you to be steward of. We are not to give as another directs us to, but as God directs us to. God gives us only what we need so we can give to another what they need. To give as another directs you too (tithing through guilt placed on you for example) is incorrect as God may want you to give elsewhere and not to that person.

This is why you need to listen to The Holy Spirit to know how much, when and to where you are to give so that you give what God has provided you to give (as per Matt 6:33) and not what another states you should give.

If you do not have something someone desires you to give to them, then you know you are not to give it to them until God provides it for you to be able to give it to them.

To remove what the family needs so you can sacrificially give to another is to not provide for your family which The Bible condemns. This is why God will always give to you what He desires you to give to another so that your family does not suffer,

Our Body as tools for God to use

Our bodies are tools God uses to tell others of the Gospel of The Kingdom, to Glorify Him (through the way we worship and serve Him) as well as promote The Kingdom of God by our example of lifestyle. Since it is a tool we have the responsibility of being a good steward of it. If the body is not maintained properly. Then it can cloud our soul and spirit which is contained in it.

We are to keep it in good working order, taking care of it as if it was a machine as well as always having it ready for God to use. Anyone not keeping their body in good order is being a bad steward, misusing their God-given body and also sinning because of their bad stewardship of it. Disease (disease) is a sign of misuse of your body.

Daily living, Stewardship of

Everything we hold or touch on earth is owned by God and should be treated as such. Even if Satan is using it, it still belongs to God as spoils of the victory at Calvary. To not look after it properly is to be a bad steward, disregard God's property (letting Satan use it) as well as showing rebellion and a lack of love towards God. If you love a person you will look after what they own, not for your benefit but to deal with the matter in a way that is best for The Kingdom of God and will be best for the person. That is what Love does.

The fact the item is under the stewardship of a non-Christian (Satan) does not change this attitude as it is still God's. Who knows whether a Christian will be the next steward of the item or that owner may become a Christian in the future? Whether we are at work, at home or enjoying ourselves elsewhere, this attitude of caring for God's possessions is really a way of worshipping Him as well as showing our love for Him.

To be able to use an object for God may require demons to be cast out of the object and there are things used for the worship of Satan or the purposes of his kingdom which should be destroyed as

they cannot or should not be used for the purposes of The Kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit will show what to destroy and what to reclaim (rededicate) for Jesus.

Love and Stewardship

Proper stewardship is a result of you love for God and His things and the desire that results to use properly, for His purposes only, what He has trusted you with.

Love is the proper basis for all service and as stewardship is an act of loving service it cannot be done properly without love for the master and his goods. Proper stewardship is the servant heart of God in action in and through a person!

Fellowship

Fellowship is also a result of having Stewardship of your relationships in their proper place so that you know when you are fellowshiping (in the Christian meaning of the expression) and when you are socialising.

Fellowship occurs when people meet for the purposes of The King or His Kingdom. Otherwise, it is just socialising.

Relationships, Earthly

We are to relate to others on earth in love as a good steward of the relationship we have with them.

We may not love what they do. But we are still to love them as they are children of The Father. Who knows whether or not your expressing God's type of love toward them will win them for The Kingdom of God.

Love is the first principle as it is the Nature of God. We are to Love others as Jesus Loves them and us.

We are also to express the relationship within the guidelines God has given us which is why you can have sex with the wife but not with your sister even though you love them equally.

We are to respect authority lines:

Legal: employer/employee etc. Those people the laws of the land have given authority over you for the purposes of these laws of the land.

A minister only has no legal authority over you except in regard to denominational or church issues that the denomination or laws of the land authorizes them to represent you in. He can minister to you spiritually only as God directs and serves God's authority in this and not the denomination/church or his self.

As a representative of a denomination, a minister has authority over what the denomination allows him to have authority over. But that still does not give him any spiritual authority over you. He can expel you from the denomination but cannot expel you spiritually from The Body or discipline you as if you were under his spiritual authority. Jesus is our bishop 1 Pet 2:25 and no one else.

There are two types of relationships

Spiritual relationships: Mentors and similar, those you fellowship with as equals

Physical relationships: Parents, relatives, fellow employees etc. Any non-spiritual relationship where society dictates the ways we are to interact.

You are to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all the ways you relate to people:

Do not argue with, react to, reason out or assume what people say or what their motives are. Ask Holy Spirit what to do and then answer.

God is your King. So, you need to ask what you are to do in a confrontational situation. A soft answer turns away anger (The Bible says). Arguing will never turn away anger but will only increase it and the walls it sets up.

Do not do for others what The Holy Spirit says they should be doing for themselves.

Remember you are stewards of all God has given you and that includes

His Love in you and the relationships He has given you.

Stewardship of Marriage

The word 'husband' occurs in many other words such as 'husbandman', and 'husbandry', all of which refer to one who has care of property on behalf of another. This indicates the role of a husband. He is a steward of the wife, family and possessions (property) God has given him to be steward of.

Stewardship of marriage is a natural expression of the Love we have for God expressed to our spouse and children.

1 Cor 4: 1-2 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

You will be accountable to God for how you deal with the steward responsibilities He has given you. Firstly, towards the spiritual knowledge God has given to you and secondly to the earthly (family and possessions) responsibilities that you have been trusted with.

You will be called to give an account to God for how you dealt with your domestic headship as a husband. Also, for how you deal (as a leader) with the family finances: providing and maintaining them, maintaining the home and surroundings, as well as the way you protect the family from Satan's world and its attacks on the family through such things as television, movies, laws of the land etc.

The wife will have to give an account to Jesus for the way she submits domestically, and carries out her role as a wife.

A wife is to respect the domestic authority over her that God has given her husband And unless she submits to this, he cannot love her in the way Jesus loves her.

How you deal with each other spiritually as husband or wife will also be examined by God when you face Him and give an account to Him of your domestic stewardship.

Headship is correct stewardship of your spouse on behalf of God.

God has given the wife to the husband and the husband to the wife. God has trusted him with her and her with him. He is a steward of her on God's behalf and she is a steward of him on God's behalf. They serve God and as a result of this service are asked to serve each other on His behalf. It is required of stewards that they are faithful to God in all they do (1 Cor 4:2).

A wife should obey her husband as a good steward of the domestic relationship with her husband that God has trusted her with. The stewardship is physical (domestic) as a man cannot provide for

his wife's spiritual needs (eternal life, heaven, salvation etc.) He can only encourage her to pursue her relationship with God and provide the physical and emotional security for her to do this.

Man has not been given spiritual authority over the wife and if Jesus is their ruler then really He is the head of the marriage and The Holy Spirit your guide in it.

He is to love her with the same type of Love that Jesus Loves her with and will held accountable by God if he does not do that!

If the wife disobeys Jesus and does not submit to the domestic authority of her husband she is in rebellion against Jesus and God cannot use her or bless her work. Not to submit domestically to headship is not so much to disobey her husband but to disobey Jesus who requires her to submit to her husband domestically (eph 5:22).

The wife is only required to respect and submit to her husband while the husband is to love wife as Jesus Loves her. This respect was important in the days of arranged marriages when the first time a wife might see her husband was at the altar. She did not have to love him but to respect the domestic authority God had given him over her and also appreciate his provision of her needs.

Jesus governs the spiritual side of the relationship (1 Pet 2:25, Gal 3:28) and to give a man spiritual authority over a woman is to remove Jesus from His role as spiritual head of the wife and husband and to imply man is spiritual steward of his wife! The man, however, does have a 'duty of care' to the woman to encourage and help her develop in her spiritual walk with God. Nowhere has Jesus delegated His spiritual authority over a wife to a husband. He has delegated some authority (over domestic matters) but not this. No one else can delegate this on the behalf of Jesus so to take Paul's writing as doing this is wrong! Paul did not have the authority to delegate the authority of Jesus and man cannot assume this from their interpretation of Scripture.

The husband is to love his wife and look after her as Jesus looks after His people: self-giving, sacrificial love, placing the needs of his wife before his own needs. He is not to encourage her greeds that satisfy her flesh but her needs that keep her spiritually alive and help her draw closer to Jesus.

Parents are also stewards of the children given to them by God. They are to provide for the needs of their children, guide them in the things of God and teach them how to be good stewards and parents as well as how to correctly relate to God and others. They are to teach them about God, how to live the Christian life as well as the skills needed to work and serve Jesus in this world as well as to prepare them to spend eternity with Jesus in heaven.

If they do not do this then they are not a good steward of them.

Life is a continual stewardship of all God trusts you with, which is why Love is so important as it is the basis of all relationships and all godly stewardship.

Stewardship of Sexuality

Men and women are made sexually different by God (maleness and femaleness) with different domestic roles and are to be stewards of their sexuality (and roles) and not just allow it to be transformed in any way to the sexuality the other sex has or to what the media says they should have. Satan is trying to do this so that sexual roles blur and people do not realize the full potential of their sexuality either as maleness or femaleness.

If God did not need to make men and women different with different roles He would only have needed to make men.

There are common roles for men and women but there are also roles men and women are designed to do, that are different and only a male or female can successfully do these respective roles.

Two examples that come to mind are fatherhood and motherhood. When the roles are changed there are stresses in the family and headship is not there. If Satan can blur these roles then headship disappears along with God's order in the family. This blurring of sexuality is one of the reasons many families are in a mess as each parent does not carry out the role they were designed for, but end up carrying out roles placed on them by necessity (each working e.g.), or based on Satan's deceptions in the media of what a man or woman should be or do.

We must look after and cultivate that which makes up our maleness or femaleness, parts of which are uniquely different (our masculinity and femininity). Which God has given us to help us in the unique roles He has given us to carry out the tasks He has ordained as uniquely male or female

This does not mean that the role of one is more important or superior to that of the other. They are more like an interfacing set of roles where each compliments and reinforces the role of the other.

God has designated what each gender is to do and has prepared them emotionally and physically to do their God-given roles. To do otherwise would not make Him a God of Love. So, each role is important to God and as such has a purpose in His Kingdom and in the marriage. If these roles are carried out correctly they will fit like a glove and result in unity and order in the marriage and The Kingdom.

In the process of correctly carrying out these roles you will also fulfil the requirements of stewardship of these roles.

Spiritually, husband and wife are equals.

Gal 3:28 (GNB) So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus.

As long as a woman fulfils God's requirements for any ministry, there is no reason she cannot do anything a man does in The Body and in the case of ministry to a woman, they will probably do it better than a man.

Any denomination, church or organization that limits women to non-spiritual roles is being a bad steward of them and is not allowing them to do what God said they could do. Both men and women were anointed at Pentecost, and as God is economical, if women were not to minister they would not have been anointed by The Holy Spirit for the purposes of ministering.

Stewardship of a wife's body

A wife is to respect her husband but if he abuses her seriously in any way she has to leave. She has to protect her body, mind and faith as a steward of these things and is answerable to Jesus for the use of these as He is the one who has sent her to submit to the husband.

She is to respect her husband unless he abuses her and does not show God's quality of Love to her as he is required too by God. If he abuses her he has broken the marriage agreement and she can leave for the sake of her mind, body, faith and personality to protect herself and her children.

She is not to divorce but to conduct spiritual warfare that he will repent and be delivered of what he has made him that way.

She should have been doing this well before she had to leave, doing spiritual warfare against the demons attacking the marriage.

A wife must also be a good steward of her husband and not defraud him in any way.

If both spouses love each other with the same type of love with which God loves them then there should never be any conflict. Because they will ask The Holy Spirit what to do in a situation where there is conflict and will do what He says.

Stewardship of marriage possessions

Husband and wives have different roles and so have different areas of expertise so when they go shopping they should respect each other's area of expertise and listen to their spouse as their spouse applies the knowledge they have learned as a result of the role they have been prepared for as a wife before marriage. Anything to do with food, clothes for the children or housework the wife usually know best. Anything to do with the maintenance or mechanical things of the house the husband usually knows best. To not allow a spouse to work in their area of expertise could, in some way, prevent the spouse being a good steward.

Any purchase is to be approved by The Holy Spirit so that you do not buy what you do not need or spend more than you should. So that you will have left what is necessary to do what God wants you to do.

There should be an agreed limit that can be spent without the approval of the other partner being needed. This can be a set limit but varied in respect to a particular item like a vacuum cleaner that may cost more than a limit set of \$200 but which the wife has the knowledge to choose so there may be an agreement like:

"Dear go buy a vacuum cleaner. If it costs less than \$400 buy it without the need to consult me".

It is assumed she will be guided to The Holy Spirit to what God wants her to buy so that it is not money spent for the sake of pleasure alone but spent in accordance with the Will of God (as all monies should be spent).

Stewardship of rights in marriage and forgiveness

If I hold onto my hurts and pain and choose to be offended I am saying that I have a right to be offended and to not forgive.

Jesus says you do not have this right to hold onto offences and to not forgive!

By holding onto to this so-called right you are being self-righteous and have made yourself into a god in this area and are in danger of losing your salvation if you do not choose to forgive (Mat 6:14-15)

Mat 6:14-15 (KJV) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses..

In a marriage, no spouse had a right not to forgive through holding onto hurts or offences. Doing this is a form of a 'holier than thou attitude' which destroys relationships and is an expression of the self-righteous attitude you have chosen to hold onto. So, the wife may have to escape the marriage for her safety. But she still has to forgive her abuser.

In a marriage you give up all your rights because love has no rights. Rights holds onto to that would stop it expressing love to another. To do so is bad stewardship of love.

Love puts the needs of others before itself and any rights they have that would hinder expressing God's type of Love are ignored.

Healing can only occur if you forgive and to hold onto your so-called rights stops healing and destroys the marriage.

There is no self-interest in marriage. You are either helping others to realise who they are or serving Jesus and expressing His Kingdom in all you do for your spouse and others.

For a marriage to work each spouse must die to self-interest and express Jesus in all they do. Deliverance of either or both spouses may be needed (and usually both need deliverance because the demons in one spouse will cause emotional hurts in the other spouse).

Questions by your spouse

A spouse may ask you if you have done something. The first thing to do is not to react as there are a variety of reasons for them asking this question.

They may need to know if it is done so the next stage of the activity, as a steward of the matter, dependant can be started

They may ask so they know it is finished and can show appreciation to you for your doing it for them.

They may need to know so they can ask you to do other things for them.

They may be responsible to God for that area of the family and need to know so that they know their responsibility has been fulfilled (feedback).

They may need the security of knowing you love them and will do things for them so they are secure in your performing your side of the relationship when she needs help. If the spouse is checking for control purposes then they need deliverance in an area.

A spouse who loves their partner does not need to be nagged to do things for them and will tell them if they are unable to do it and why they are unable to do it. If a spouse needs to be nagged to do something one or both of them may need deliverance.

This does not stop you reminding them out of love and not out of a critical or controlling spirit.

This is part of being a good steward of the marriage relationship.

Love serves but does not do for another what they should be doing for them self and a spouse who loves their partner will serve them unless their partner should be doing it and should not have asked their spouse to do it for them.

That does not stop you helping them if they need help to do the anything or helping just because you love them. Helping a person is serving them and not taking control of them. You submit to the person you are helping so they can tell you what help they need.

This is why a husband and wife are to submit to each other out of love for each other, so they can submit to each other so and can serve and help each other.

Earth, Is man the steward of it all?

No! Mankind might be but individual persons are not.

People point to Adam being given the care and protection of the garden of Eden as meaning he was given stewardship of all the earth. The garden was only a part of the earth and it was into the rest of the earth Adam was cast out. That garden also disappeared in the flood if not earlier. So, Adam was only told to look after the part of the earth he had been made steward of (The Garden).

He had not been made steward of the area of the earth he had been cast out into.

The Garden was part of God's Kingdom on earth so Adam was given care of the things of God and not of the world (the earth is Satan's at the moment and God will not protect the things of Satan). You are responsible for whatever God gives you to maintain on His behalf and no more. While we may need to protect things for God and His Glory this will only be as He directs us too.

Anyone who says Christians have responsibility to be a steward of all the current world is helping Satan. You are only required to be a steward of the area of earth God has given you to be steward of, usually your home and land and all on or in it. It may be different in the Millennium when Jesus rules but in this period of time you are to care and protect only that which Jesus says you are steward of on His behalf.

In other words, you are steward of the part of The Kingdom God has given to you to care for as well as anything of The Father's earth you are told to take care of.

Stewardship and Wealth

All the wealth in the world is God's. Satan has as much of it as he can get at the moment and is misusing it. He is not a good steward of it. As citizens of The Kingdom of God we have a responsibility (as stewards of the things of The Kingdom) to use God's property in a proper way.

The pursuit of things God does not want you to have involves earning what is unnecessary money or misusing time to care for these side tracking, distracting things. These things take you away from time you would use to relate to God and do His purposes.

We are told not to lay up (amass) treasure on earth but to send it ahead to heaven through our correct use of money, possessions and our time.

We are told time is short and we do not need expensive things that will not last long and that we will not really have that much time to enjoy them anyway.

We are told that God will provide all we need for His work as well as how He desires us to live for Him and that having all the food and clothing we need to be content.

To gather more than God wants you to have is covetousness and takes you away from God's purposes for you. It is idolatry as well.

You do not need wealth to serve Jesus

You do not need worldly power or authority

You do not need theological training

You just use what He has given you

And listen to the guidance of The Holy Spirit

If your family is in God's order and your house is neat and tidy, no one has a right to criticize your 'poverty' (lack of worldly wealth) and do not forget. In the Western world the 'poverty' you live in is better than what 2/3 of what the rest of the world lives in.

Do not also forget that all you have will be left behind when you die. You cannot take it with you. When you die, all you take with you is relationships: to Jesus, others (including family) and yourself. All you send ahead are the rewards you gained in this life through the wise stewardship (obedient service) of what God allowed you to have and do in this world.

The Difference between a 'need' and a 'greed'

A need is something you require to do the work of Jesus or to live as He requires you to live. Greeds, like addictions, are usually used to satisfy desires for things you do not need and are often a way to cope with emotional pain or hurt. Deliverance may be needed to deal with these.

There is a grey area in between when at times you do not know whether it is a greed or a need, so you need to ask The Holy Spirit if it is a need or a greed.

Depending on circumstances a need can be a greed or a greed can end up a need. An example is drinking soft drink you purchase when you are dehydrated when there is water around to be had for free. That is a greed. But if there is no water then it is a need. Another example is Lobster. Eating it in a restaurant is a luxury but eating it in a survival situation is a need. This is where you need The Holy Spirit to help you determine which is which.

The value of worldly things

How should we value the things of the world? We should value them as if we are walking away from them never to see them again. This does not mean we neglect them as we are stewards of them and must maintain them, but it means we do not hold onto them when God tells us to let them go. Look around you, this may be the last time you will see that scene and all that is in it.

We take our next step or breath here because God allows us to and each step or breath could be our last in this world. The things of this world will no longer be of importance if we believe each step or breath is our last and we may not pass this way again. Heaven and eternity then become our focus and our objectives then are directed towards doing everything we need to satisfy Jesus to get there.

If we do not hold onto the things of this world God is able to remove them or have us give them to another and replace them for us with what he needs and does so with something better suited to our needs than that which He removed. Things will be restored, if they are necessary, in His timing and not ours.

If we do not hold onto things we can look ahead to that which is coming and deal with them in a way God wants us too without us being hindered by holding onto things we may never need again (Luke 9:62).

The challenge as a Christian is to be in the world and not hold onto the things of the world but to be a good steward of those things you have been given to look after on behalf of God.

Remember God will always provide what you need to live and to minister in the way He desires you too on His behalf. All else is really unnecessary to your Christian walk (Matt 6:33-34).

Should a Christian have more than they need?

No! To do so is greed or covetousness and implies God has not provided what you need to serve Him as He promised to provide what you need in Mat 6:33. This is why you are to check with God when buying things or why you appear to have more money or possessions than you need. This way you will not buy what you do not need or will buy what He tells you to and you will not spend money carelessly but on what He desires done with it.

There are other reasons for not buying more than you need:

It is a command to be organized and tidy and to have too much results in clutter:

1 Corinthians 14:40 "let all things be done decently and in order."

It is good stewardship to only have what God wants you to have and not what another has (keeping up with the Jones's syndrome, which Satan loves to have people do). If you have too much it is because someone else has less than they should or God wants you to give it to another.

It shows trust in God's Love not to tie up things as security so that others do not have what they need as the money or other things you should have given them is tied up in your the unnecessary things you own. Having these also shows a lack of trust in God's provision for the future

It is a sign of faith in God's provision not to stock up on things excessively apart from normal needs and adequate reserves (unless told too) and not to value these things more highly than God's Will for you in regard to these things. God may have you save for future expenses you may need to budget for. But this is not the same as saving for your future security.

It is a sign of a correct relationships and attitude to God that you desire the things of God more than the things of the world, so that you are willing to go without them for His Will to be done.

As you remove the things from your lifestyle that clutter you and unnecessarily take up your time you will have more time to relate to God and others so that you do His Will and get things into order. It is to be remembered that how you express your relationships is what the Christian life is all about.

Remember that the main purpose of advertising is to buy things you do not need. If you needed them they would not have to advertise for you to buy these things. This is why you are to ask the Holy Spirit what to buy and when to buy it and then you will have what is best for you and not what someone else is saying you need something, who is trying to sell something they say is best for you or is necessary for you to have.

God decides what is necessary for you and not the advertising agency or your flesh.

Sacrificial Giving

God promises to provide all you need and that includes what you are to give to another so you should not need to take from what you need to live and serve God to help another. If he wanted you to help them He would provide what you need to do this.

Gambling

God requires you to work for your living and will not allow you to win at gambling to circumvent this principle (Gal 6:7-8). The devil will gladly help you win for a time when gambling till you become addicted and cannot stop. Then you will lose all you have and including possibly your salvation (which of course is his objective).

Satan desires you to be part of his kingdom. For this to happen you need to lose your salvation. Satan's only objective is for you to lose your salvation and all else he does is toward this objective. Addictions are a major way he does this.

Gambling is an addiction and like all addictions, the person needs deliverance to remove all the demons behind the addiction as well as to also deal with the root causes that caused them to compensate for them through gambling.

A gambler can never be a good steward of the things of God! The demons driving them will not let them. The same is true for other addictions such as drugs, pornography, alcohol, cigarettes etc., and similar addictions manifesting as the necessary, extensive collection of anything either as a hobby or a security.

Only through deliverance will these people really ever be free from the urge to gamble.

In Summary

You are only to look after what God gives you to be steward of. However, there may be times He tells you to help others with their stewardship, then you are a helper and not a controller of these things.

Various other matters Stewardship of Giving in more detail

Not to give to another in the way that God directs you to give, is bad stewardship as well as disobedience, because you are deliberately not using what you are steward of in the way God is directing you to use it. You are withholding from another something God desires them to have so they can serve Him with their correct usage of it. If the disobedience is not repented of it will lead to loss of salvation (Rev 3:5).

By not obeying God you hinder The Kingdom of God in some way as well as hinder the intended recipient of the gift using it in the way God intended them to use it for His purposes. You also deny yourself a reward in heaven as well as a blessing God has for both of you.

The good steward does not gather wealth for his own purposes as his Master gives him all he needs to live and serve him and to do otherwise is theft of his Master's possessions and deprives another of their use. What he has being given by his master above his needs he uses for his Master's purposes before his own out of love and gratitude to his Master for what the Master has done for him. However, at times, his Master will tell him to use some of this wealth for his own purposes, such as relaxing or improving His lifestyle.

Holidays (days of rest) are a part of the stewardship of who you are as a person as is resting every seventh day of your week.

If we are to be faithful stewards then the Will of the King must be expressed in all we do, especially in how we use what He has given us: mind, body, relationships, things we are stewards of.

A lie of Satan is to make us think we are owners and not stewards of all we have so that God's Will is not as relevant in what we do with the 'things we own'. We believe we are giving from what we believe we own and not from the reality of the situation - Giving something God has given us to give to another. With this wrong attitude any kind of giving: time, money, possessions, worship, becomes and imposition and not a joyful returning to God some of what He has Graciously given us (1 Chron 29:12).

Interest and profit are always at the expense of someone else's stewardship lifestyle. Satan knows this. Which is why big business and banks have grown so big in Satan's world system and because of their nature (tools for Satan) usually have no love, compassion or mercy in their ethics,

It is all a matter of perspective and understanding that we are stewards and not owners of all God has given to us, or allowed to happen to us, or brought across our path.

You want to get to heaven? Then you must be a faithful steward of all that God has given to you: life, possessions, people and relationships and endure what is necessary to be a good steward of them.

Blessings and their financing

When you Bless a person you are only giving out of the abundance God has given you above what you need to survive and do His work, not the abundance over luxuries you do not need. You are only a steward of what you have and blessing another is giving them the stewardship of something you were once steward over. This has to be after providing for the needs of your family. I repeat needs and not luxuries

It is a command to be organized and tidy and have only what you need:

1 Corinthians 14:40 "let all things be done decently and in order."

Phil 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

It is good stewardship to only have what God wants you to have and not what another has. If you have too much it is because someone else has less than they should. If you have too much it makes it difficult to care for the things God actually want you to look after.

It shows a lack trust in God's Love to tie up things as security so that others do not have what they need as the money you should have given them is tied up in your unnecessary assets, so that you cannot give them to another when God tells you too.

It is a sign of faith in God's provision not to stock up on things excessively apart from normal needs and adequate reserves or of what He directs you too and to not value them more highly than God's Will for you. The Holy Spirit will tell you what is an adequate reserve.

There is nothing wrong with being rich, as Long as God is in control of the money and possessions. In fact, because you give as He directs He may prosper you so that you can give to others more than most can give.

It is a sign of a correct relationship and attitude to God in that you desire the things of God more than the things of the world.

As we remove the things from our lifestyle that clutter us and take our time we will have more time to relate to God and others so that we can also get these relationships into order.

When we have our life in God's order, we will be able to deal with things we are steward of as God desires us to deal with them of which giving is a part of this.

It is to be remembered that how we express our relationships and stewardship of what we have been given to be steward of, is what the Christian life is all about.

Ownership versus Stewardship

Ownership is Satan's way of hiding the fact we are all stewards of what God has given us to look after and not owners of it. If Satan can compromise our stewardship he will compromise our life and Christian witness.

A person who owns something takes pride in ownership and protects it against others taking it from them. They do not easily part with the item owned for anything usually unless what is offered has more value to them than the item they have. A person who is a steward realizes he is only a caretaker and that the owner (Jesus) has the right of using the item or of giving it to someone else. He takes satisfaction in the way he serves his stewardship and not in the ownership of the item. He cannot take pride in what he does not own but he can have pleasure and satisfaction in the way he has performed his stewardship. It is only as they love its owner will they perform their stewardship properly and protect what they are steward of.

Love is not possessive over things and a good steward will give to others what they need if they are able to within the guidelines of stewardship God has given them. They will not stockpile or withhold from others because others are not a Christian or of a different church or denomination or family (unless told to by The Holy Spirit).

A denomination usually acts as owner of what it has rather than as a steward of it and teach this attitude to their people so that the people do not usually ask Jesus what to do with what they are a steward of. They usually ask the denominational representative (minister, elder, counsellor or similar) what they should do with things when they are not certain.

This was the problem with the church in Corinth. Those who had more than they needed acted as if they were owners and not stewards of what they had and did not give to those who did not have. Thus, the need for Paul to explain Love to them.

It is hypocrisy to say you have the Love of Christ and ignore the needs of your brethren when you are in a position to be able to meet it (providing God has told you to meet it). So, while denominations say they have the "love of Jesus" and ignore the needs of those in their own church or around them or of other denominational churches or people, they are hypocrites and God cannot accept anything they 'offer to Him' or 'do for Him'.

You are to give only as The Holy Spirit says to give and not as others want you to give through applying peer pressure on you or making you feel guilty over not giving.

If you are doing what God wants you to do you should never need to ask for money or what you require to do His Will (Mat 6:33). It is only when you do things for your own purposes and not God's that deficits occur in the provision needed to do His things.

Treasure

Accumulated wealth in the form of money or jewels etc. Art highly prized for its beauty or perfection

Any possession that is highly valued by its owner

A collection of precious things.

Hold dear

Be fond of; be attached to.

Worldly treasure is anything you hold to be of more value than the Will of God. Another name for it would be an 'idol'.

Matt 6:19-21 ¶ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

1 *Tim 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

2 *Tim 2:3-4 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

We are at war in hostile enemy territory (the kingdom of the world i.e. Satan's kingdom). Why should we expect the battle to be easy and not sustain any wounds or even to lose our life! We serve a King (Jesus) who knows the master plan of the battle and who is directing us in the fight. Those who listen to the commander will do His Will in spite of what happens to them, because they trust the commander's provision during the battle and afterwards, when they are back in His Kingdom.

They will look after what they are steward of regardless of the cost to them if the commander asks them to do so. Remember, all service is voluntary so that God may ask you to do something but it is really up to you to do it.

In what is to come, as The King unleashes His Weapons to attack His enemies, (wars, disease, disasters, plagues, fire, drought, storms etc.,) and removes that which hinders His people doing His Will all that will really matter will be faithful, obedient, loving service to The King, trusting in His Love, Plans, Provision and Protection for us as nothing else will be certain.

He and His Will, will be our true treasure! After all, we are told God is our reward and this will be our true treasure.

Are you ready for The War to intensify?

A Soldier removes all that will hinder their ability to fight in a war so they can fight unhindered.

Have you removed all that is excess to your needs so you can fight unhindered? Or are you going into battle with things belonging to the enemy, which are no use to you in the battle and which will only weigh you down?

You have been warned!

Mat 6:24-34 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not

arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

You have definitely been warned!!

The treasures you hold onto on earth may be the very ones that may lose you the battle for your salvation.

A soldier learns to travel light with only what their Master wants them to carry. They must trust their King to be a good steward and supply all their needs to be able to live and fight for him.

A soldier does not take a house with him or a caravan but only what is necessary to fight and live. What do you carry that is unnecessary to live as Jesus wants you to live and fight for Him as a good steward of all He has given you?

A soldier who trusts his king will trust his king's stewardship of him and fight the battle unhindered by any care for his needs. A Christian believes Matt 6:33, that Jesus is a good steward of His soldiers and will provide all the soldiers need to do the battle (ministry) God has called them to serve in.

In The Kingdom of God, on earth, everyone is a soldier or learning to be one so they can fight the enemy, Satan. The Battle is a spiritual one and not a physical one but may be shown in the physical. So, if you are not fighting Satan as is necessary, or his demons in the spiritual realm, you are not really fighting for The Kingdom and have missed the battle all together, fighting only the results of the attack and not the cause.

Sharing possessions

People say, at times, that Christians should have all things in common and not own things individually. That all belongs to the group. This is wrong. All belongs to Jesus and He gives us things to be stewards of on His behalf. It is not the group or person in charge who has the right to say what to do with something. It belongs to Jesus and He is to say what you are to do with it.

Charities, churches and others, Giving to

You are steward on behalf of God so He directs you what to do with what He has trusted you with. No other can tell you what to do with it as He alone is its owner. When asked for money you need to ask God whether you are to give and if so how much you are to give. You then do what He says to do. To do otherwise is sin (disobedience) and shows a possible need for deliverance in an area of your life.

You should never give because of peer pressure or guilt placed upon you by the person asking for money, whether it be a church, charity or family member. God owns the money not you and you are to do with it what He says to do.

The hammer of 'tithing' cannot be used to make you give. If God wants you to give a tithe He will tell you to without the need for the church demanding you follow 'The Bible' and tithe. Besides, if a

church is doing what God wants it to do it will not need to ask , persuade or force people to give to it. God will ask those who should give to or supply its need so that they will give to give to that church what it needs for it to do the work of God. For someone or some organisation to say God cannot supply their need, so that they have to find it through fund raising or similar, is to limit Him and say He is not God of All things and All Powerful. It could also be that they are doing or owning things God does not want them to do or have.

Sell all you have and give to the poor

Luk 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Luk 18:19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

Luk 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

Luk 18:21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

Luk 18:22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and dis-tribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

Luk 18:23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

We are stewards of all God has given us so we cannot sell anything without His permission and even then He gives us what we need to give to others.

So, what was Jesus talking about here?

Jesus always dealt with attitudes and here He is talking about an attitude towards money that does not rely on it and is able to give it away as God desires without any regret or reticence.

We are to give to the widow, the poor and needy. But only as God tells us too.

Saving up for a Rainy Day

Are we to provide for the future?

Scripture in the Bible talks about laying up treasure in heaven by using correctly what you have on earth. You are to provide for those dependent on you and out of your surplus help others (1 Tim 5:8).

God has promised to meet all your needs. However, He may tell you to save for the future for special circumstances. Usually this is to meet future expenses such as rates, taxes, medical expenses and regular recurring payments. To save for any other reason is usually to doubt his promise of provision.

When in doubt ask The Holy Spirit. He promises to guide you into all truth and not just spiritual truth (Jn 16:13)

Remember, anything you hoard or keep above what you need is a form of treasure (excess wealth) and idolatry and unless God has told you to hoard this excess it will be used by Satan to compromise your faith or lead you away from it.

Mat 6:33 states that God will provide all you need if you seek His Will for His Kingdom as well as being in a correct relationship with Him in all things

To lay up provision (save) implies God cannot meet your needs. This is different to budgeting where money is placed in an account to meet a future liability that you have (for which God has directed you to save for).

You are either seeking God's Kingdom and having your needs supplied or are not seeking Him and His Kingdom, in which case you will be seeking things you do not need and having to get them yourself as God will not provide you with them or the finances to obtain them. The danger is that Satan will provide them or the finances for them and will use this provision for his purposes.

You are also to put aside any surplus on the first day of each working week as God directs (your pay day?) to help those less fortunate than yourself. We give from our excess provided by God not from what is necessary to maintain our dependants. This excess is also included in Mat 6:33 as God promises to provide all our needs of which giving is a part.

There is no such things as sacrificial giving as God promises to give us all we need and that implies He also gives us all we need to give to another!

Note that it is all our needs, not just financial ones. If our needs are not being met we need to ask why.

Perhaps we are in sin and not in a correct relationship with God

Perhaps we are not seeking His Kingdom and His Righteousness

Perhaps we are seeking things we do not need and have placed ourself out of His Will so that He will not meet these extra needs.

Perhaps it is not God's timing to meet your desire as He wants to mature you more through testing your faith that He will provide your needs as He has promised you He would (Ps 37:25).

Perhaps it is a test to strengthen our faith or to prepare you for future ministry.

We cannot serve two masters. We cannot serve our own desires that are encouraged and cultivated by Satan when it suits him to do so and those of God. We must listen to The Holy Spirit's Guidance and spend only on what He says too or else we will waste God's provision and not have sufficient for what God requires of us.

The promise is there in Mat 6:33 for the provision of all our needs. So, if you have financial problems I would do some real soul searching as to why they are there.

Stewardship of our God-given Ministry

Your life is your ministry to Jesus

Most people want to do big, important things for Jesus. Often this is so they will either feel God loves them as He is using them or because they need to do them for purposes of self-esteem.

God is interested only in the relationship He has with you and the love that flows from it expressed by the way you relate to Him and others. Nothing you do can change this. All Jesus requires of you is to relate to Him in love and do what He gives you to do well - No matter how small or trivial it appears to be!

As you obey God and do correctly the daily routines of life, within the guidelines He has given you, your life becomes an act of worship and satisfies His requirements of you, and you show by your

attitudes He is worthy of being followed and by this you worship Him. This is how you worship God by your life.

The Christian life is found in doing the small things well each day: housework, employment, maintaining the house and gardens etc, are not great things but until you can do the small things well, Jesus will not ask you to do great things for Him. If are not a good steward of little things, how can He ask you to do great things. If you are not a good steward of your family, how can He ask you to be a steward of members of The Body.

Love is faithful and is a good steward of all that is trusted to it and does what is required without thought of self or gain, thinking only of serving others, and from this obtains its pleasure. Reward is not important. The benefit and joy and it gives to another is their re- ward.

The joy of being a good steward of your God-given ministry is to see the lives that are changed into the image of Jesus and to know that by this you are a good and faithful servant and faithful steward of all you have been trusted with, and that God considers you worthy of helping Him in serving others.

Remember that love never does for another what they should be doing for themselves and never neglects what God has given them so they use these God-given things to serve others.

What can we give God for all the Love and faithful stewardship He shows to us? All we have is our minds. Everything else is owned by Him (body, soul spirit) and we only have these because He gives them to us to use.

Service, Stewardship of

A good steward serves God and as a result of this also serves others. Things are held on behalf of God to be used as God directs either for the benefit of others or for the needs of those they have responsibility to support in this world.

A good steward always serves God and this results in service to others.

Stewardship of Ministry

Ministers are stewards of the service they are to give others and will give an account of this to God when they face Him for judgment when their life is over (Heb 9:27). They are servants and stewards of the ministry God has given to them.

The things of God, Stewardship of

God has trusted His mysteries to us to declare to the world. The Holy Spirit gives people understanding of them (Job 32:8). But He needs people to declare them for Him to have something to work with (Rom 10:14-15)

The Gospel is one thing that we must tell others about. There are other mysteries. So, it is up to you to learn what they are and how to explain them to those He requires you to tell or teach them too. God says they are revealed in Jesus so you need to know Jesus to have the revelation of them through the Holy Spirit giving you understanding of these things. As you relate to Jesus in a correct way He will reveal them to you in His time (Jn 16:13, 7:17) God promises to reveal to you what you need to know to do His Will so that you will have no excuse for not doing anything He requires you to do (Duet 29:29, Jn 16:13).

Remember that God does not keep from you, things you need to know. But Satan will gladly provide his version of them. This is why you need to be careful of doctrine or beliefs not based on the Bible or not in agreement with what The Bible says about things.

Doctrine must always be based on The Bible but traditions of men do not and in this is their danger!

Some other matters

The Holy Spirit, Stewardship of our relationship with

The Holy Spirit's presence is in you so you need to develop and nurture the relationship you have with Him. This is so you can relate to Him as you should and hear Him clearly when He speaks to you as well as be sensitive to His feelings and desires for you (which represent what Jesus and The Father feel and desires for you).

Entertainment, Stewardship of

Entertainment and relaxation must be stewarded properly so that they are Godly, bring Glory to God because of what you do and through the way you do them as well as serve God's purpose in your life at that time.

To do things because of wrong reasons for the pleasure or lust is wrong. Because it abuses what God has given to use to relax with which is sin.

The Holy Spirit will guide you in relaxing and being entertained so that you will be a good steward in these things.

On Work

Why Work? There are at least two reasons:

Eph 4:28 Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.

2 Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

Anyone who eats of what another has laboured for without a valid reason for doing so is stealing from them. Anyone who will not work without a valid reason is stealing from those who feed them and ultimately from God.

Anyone who uses up something that God has trusted to another without a valid reason for doing so is stealing from them and ultimately from God.

You need to work at being a good steward of what God has given you. You need to work so you do not steal from the stewardship of another through laziness, greed, or unnecessarily imposing on them.

Work Ethics

If you do your work wholeheartedly to please Jesus you do not need to fear what man thinks as Jesus, who is your judge, is satisfied with this attitude and will take responsibility for the results of your labour.

If applying God's principles to your work loses you anything then remember God will replace it with better if you need it and reward you in heaven. God removes that which you do not need so you can

better concentrate on what you need for His purposes so you can be a better steward of these for Him.

Remember! You are working for more than wages or the approval of man! You are also working towards your eternal destiny as a faithful steward of God!

If you have proper self-esteem and self-worth you will work as you should. Otherwise, your work will reflect your inadequacies in these areas in which case deliverance is needed to remove these.

Stewardship and employment

The employer trusts you with things he has stewardship over that you will use them properly for the purposes he gives you to be used for. When using them you have temporary stewardship of them so must use them properly.

The faithful employee will be a good steward of these things as he knows he serves Jesus with their stewardship of the employers' things and then serves their employer next in these things.

As a representative of The Kingdom, you need to work with the integrity of The Kingdom. Anything else is sin.

A Short Summary? What are we stewards of? A short list is as follows:

God's Love given to us

God's Grace given to us

God's Authority delegated to us

God's Wisdom shown to us

God's property in our possession

God-given relationships

Our Life

The Mysteries of God

A faithful steward is one who is faithful in dealing with what has been trusted to them. We show our stewardship of these things in the way we use them in the everyday things we do and from this people can see what type of stewards we are as well as see The Kingdom of God being expressed through our attitude to stewardship.

If you are a good steward you will satisfy the requirements of Matt 6:33 as stewardship is part of the obedience required by the principles of this walk.

When you die you take only three things with you:

The stewardship of your relationships to The Father, The Holy Spirit and Jesus (how you related to them and used what they gave you For Their purposes).

The stewardship of your relationship to others (how you how you related to others and used what God gave you for the benefit of others),

The stewardship of your relationship to yourself (how you used the life God gave you).

It is required of stewards that they are faithful. Only faithful stewards enter heaven and the restored Millennial Kingdom of God on Earth and later the New Heaven and New Earth that follows it.

Tests for stewardship of something

Has God given it to you? If not then do not accept it.

For what purpose has God given it to you? He will not give you something just for the sake of giving it to you.

When does God want you to use it?

How does God want you to use it?

Will it show His Love and expand His Kingdom in some way?

What does The Holy Spirit say about its use?

Life is a stewardship of all we have and to approach it any other way makes us a controller of what we are steward of and not a servant of its owner, Jesus

Cessation of Stewardship Stewardship

finishes when you die.

If you go to heaven it resumes there.

If you go to hell you will never have to be concerned about stewardship again. You will be too busy trying to deal with the fear and the pain.

All the stewardship you have now on earth will be left behind and given to another.

You will not be judged on the results of your stewardship. But on your attitudes towards it.

Stewardship prayer

Lord I give you my stewardship of everything I have from any source I have received it from. I desire you to be Lord of it and am sorry for anything I have done wrong in these areas. I give you the causes and results of my weaknesses in this area as well as anything associated with these areas and I say to Satan:

Satan my stewardship now completely belongs to Jesus so that you no longer have any right to interfere with it in any way. In Jesus' Name go to The Throne of Judgment to be dealt with by Jesus and take all that you did to me with you.

In Jesus' Name I command healing and restoration on my stewardship and ask you Holy Spirit to fill me and take the place of all the demons that have gone. Thank you Father, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit

Amen In

Summary

Stewardship is a choice and it is your choices that determine whether you end up in heaven or hell. Which is why you need to discipline yourself to hear The Guidance of The Holy and Spirit as well as do what He tells you to do, so that you will make the correct choices and do the activities Jesus desires you to do as a citizen of His Kingdom.

Stewardship eventually becomes an attitude and does need to be worked at as the attitude becomes a natural part of your expression as a Christian and citizen of The Kingdom of God.

In a sense, stewardship is a life of selfless giving and service, expressing God's type of Love in all you do and is the essence of the Christian life.

Stewardship pervades all you do. Happy is the man that understands this and puts it into practice in his life.

When he faces God he will hear:

"Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your reward."

So, as you go through life there are two criteria you need to use as a yardstick in all you do:

Does it show God's type of love

Is it good stewardship of what God has given to you to care for on his behalf

If the answer to either of these is "No!" Then it is sin if you knowingly proceed and if deliberately continued in may lose you your salvation through disobedience.