

Financial Peace University

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Stewardship: The Christian Life

The Bible has a lot to say about Christian stewardship. Unfortunately, many people (even pastors) have come to believe that stewardship is all about money. While money is one aspect of Christian stewardship, it is a much broader concept than that. As one Seminary professor said, "The Christian life is stewardship and stewardship is the Christian life."

What it means to be a Christian steward begins with the *who* not with the *what*. The *who* is Jesus Christ. He is the one who redeemed us and called us to be his own. When the Holy Spirit creates faith in us (through Word and Sacraments), we become Christian stewards and are led to ask the steward's question, "What shall I do, Lord?" (See Luke 3:7-14; Acts 2:36-37; Acts 22:6-11)

God's Word gives us the foundation we need as we begin to answer the steward's question in our own lives:

- God is the Owner of all things by creation and redemption. (Psalm 24:1, 1 Corinthians 6:20)
- We are stewards by God's grace. (1 Peter 4:10)
- We are accountable to the Owner for our stewardship. (Romans 14:12)



Discussion Questions:

1. Why do so many Christians immediately think about money when they hear the word "stewardship"?
2. Everyone is a steward. We were created to be stewards. What is the difference between a steward and a Christian steward?
3. How does knowing the Biblical foundation for Christian stewardship help us answer the steward's question?

Stewardship Truth:

Faithful and fruitful stewards desire to be obedient to the Owner in every area of life.