



Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees Biblical Stewardship Principles 1

Introduction:

Vince Lombardi is remembered as one of the greatest coaches in National Football League history. He won a number of championships as well as the first two Super Bowls. One year, while in training camp, a reporter asked Lombardi several questions about team depth and returning starters. Lombardi replied that he couldn't answer questions like that. "Right now," he said, "we are focusing on fundamentals."

Focusing on fundamentals is important in many areas of life. It is also true for the steward. In 1998 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopted eight Biblical Stewardship Principles. These principles reflect what God's Word says about the Christian steward and Christian stewardship. They are fundamental to a proper understanding of Christian stewardship.

The first principle is: **GOD'S STEWARDS ARE GOD'S STEWARDS**. This means: **God's stewards are stewards by virtue of creation and their recreation in Holy Baptism; therefore they belong to the Lord.**

Read and reflect on the following passages of Holy Scripture:

- Isaiah 43: 1-3a
- Romans 6:4
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

What is the key point of this principle?

What are some ways you can apply this principle to your life right now?

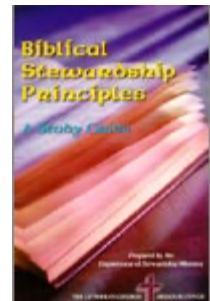
The second principle is: **GOD'S STEWARDS ARE MANAGERS, NOT OWNERS**. This means: **God's stewards have been entrusted with life and life's resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for Him.**

Read and reflect on the following passages of Holy Scripture:

- Psalm 88:11
- 1 Chronicles 29:14
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19

What is the key point of this principle?

What are some ways you can apply this principle to your life right now?



The third principle is: **GOD'S STEWARDS ARE SAINTS AND SINNERS**. This means: God's stewards rejoice in and live out what the Lord has declared them to be through the cross. At the same time His stewards recognize they are sinners who fight sin and its consequences each day.

Read and reflect on the following passages of Holy Scripture:

- Ephesians 4:22-24
- Romans 7:21-25
- 2 Peter 3:17-18

What is the key point of this principle?

What are some ways you can apply this principle to your life right now?

The fourth principle is: **GOD'S STEWARDS ARE UNIQUELY SINGULAR, YET PROFOUNDLY PLURAL**. This means: God's stewards recognize that their lives of stewardship are not solo performances but are personal responses to God, lived out within the community of faith to benefit the whole world.

Read and reflect on the following passages of Holy Scripture:

- Romans 12:4-5
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
- 1 Peter 4:10

What is the key point of this principle?

What are some ways you can apply this principle to your life right now?

Closing Prayer

Adoration...
Confession...
Thanksgiving...
Supplication....

Praise...
Remember...
Ask...
Yield...



A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

O Lord, You have called us to be stewards by Your grace. In love You created us in our mother's womb and in love You re-created us in Holy Baptism.

You have entrusted us with the gift of life and all of life's resources to be used in accordance with Your will.

We know that we are sinful and have not managed Your gifts with wisdom and selflessness. Forgive us, dear Lord, and help us.

Help us to live in such a way that Your purposes are our purposes. Help us to live in such a way that Your Name is glorified and our neighbor served.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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