



Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees

A Life That Belongs to God

Introduction:

Join in saying the First Article of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all that it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Prayer

Faith Aflame

Christian stewardship begins in the loving heart of God.

What makes us stewards of God? There are three answers. The first answer: God is the absolute owner of everything by right of creation and preservation.

Why is it so important to begin a study of Christian stewardship with the basic truth that God is the Owner of everything?



A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

O Lord, giver of life
and source of freedom,
I know that all I have received
is from Your hand.

Gracious and Loving Father,
You call us to be
stewards of Your abundance,
the caretakers of all
You have entrusted to us.
Direct us to always use
Your gifts wisely
and teach us to
share them generously.

Send the Holy Spirit to work through
us, bringing Your message to those
we serve.

May our faithful stewardship
bear witness to the love of
Jesus Christ in our lives.

We pray with grateful hearts,
in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Consider the following...

Not only are the physical parts of your body not your own

- Your heart (desires) is not your own
- Your thoughts are not your own
- Your time is not your own
- Your abilities are not your own
- Your material possessions are not your own

What is your initial reaction to the above statements?

How do you think most people (churched and/or unchurched) would react?



The basis of our life as Christian stewards flows from the realization that everything that exists belongs to God. What do the following passages say about God's ownership?

Ps 24:1

Hag 2:8

Ps 50:10

Ps 100:3

2 Tim 4:18

Add to those verses 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."*

- To whom do the words "you are not your own" apply?
- What does verse 19 say is a reason that we are not our own?
- What does verse 20 add?
- So, whose life is it after all? What are the implications of that?

Back to the original question: Why is it so important to begin a study of Christian stewardship with the basic truth that God is the Owner of everything?

What part(s) of your life (*no need to answer out-loud*) is excluded from God's claim on you?

What one thing (you will need to share this because group members can help hold you accountable) do you hope to change this month to move toward living out the truth that all you have and are belongs to God?

Closing Prayer

Adoration...

Confession...

Thanksgiving...

Supplication....

Praise...

Remember...

Ask...

Yield...



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