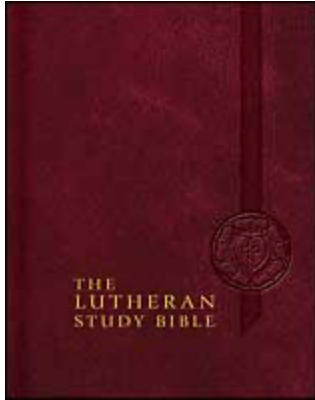


Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees

Living as a Leader in Stewardship



Session Four – Part Two



Stewardship Fundamentals

God is the owner.

I am a steward.

I am accountable.

It is no mystery that the pastor is **the** stewardship leader in the congregation. J. E. Hermann's stewardship classic, *The Chief Steward*, clarifies that point. "It is the privilege and responsibility of the pastor to teach the broad Scriptural conceptions of Christian stewardship to his people. He is also to lead them to a practical and fuller expression of the principles as individual Christians and as members of a Christian congregation. Stewardship belongs to the whole counsel of God. The levels of Christian stewardship in a Christian congregation are set in main by the pastor...The principles and practice of Christian stewardship must become the absorbing passion of his life. He should endeavor to become the number one steward in his congregation. His entire activities as pastor, his personal life, must be convincing proof that he practices what he preaches." (page 19)

Hermann continues, "Whether our congregations will measure up to their privileges and responsibilities in this explosive age of opportunities will depend, humanly speaking, upon the leadership of our pastors. People are as they are led...A pastor's position does not make him a leader; it only gives him the opportunity to prove himself a leader. We become leaders. Leaders learn by doing. Whoever refuses to learn, ceases to grow as a leader...We grow inwardly through the Word and Spirit. That growth is most vital." (page 31)

In his book, *Beyond the Collection Plate*, Michael Durall states, "Clergy and lay leaders in traditional churches who wish to approach stewardship in a more creative manner need a starting point.

He suggests a congregation begin in the area of self-reflection by leaders. The following questions provide a beginning for such self-reflection:

1. What kind of example are we to the members of this congregation in the area of whole-life stewardship?
2. What is our commitment to helping members of the congregation grow...
 - a. In the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?
 - b. In living out their faith in everyday life?
 - c. In sharing with others the faith God has worked in them?
 - d. In generosity?
3. What is the goal of our stewardship ministry?

Chief Steward

Stewardship

The teaching of stewardship in the congregation consists of three components:

Modeling

Sharing Information

Establishing Accountability

Leadership

Four levels of conversation in the Christian congregation:

Mission

Identity

Administration & Budget

Personal Preference

Conversation

In *Preparing for Change Reaction*, Bob Whitesel writes, “As I researched leadership abilities, I found the military had an insightful understanding of leadership sectors that might benefit the church. It has to do with three military leadership categories: strategic, tactical, and operational.” (page 31)

Strategic: In the military the word strategic has to do with bigger picture planning that is done before the battle. The strategic leader is the first to notice that a change is needed. Whitesel suggests that strategic leaders know what the results should look like but are weak at envisioning the step-by-step process. Forecasting and theorizing are words that describe these leaders.

Tactical: In the military these are the leaders who are skilled in the art of organizing an army. Tactical leaders lead the army once the battle has begun. Whitesel describes this kind of leadership as those who make the future, as seen by the strategic leader, happen in a unified manner. Planning and allocation are words that describe these leaders.

Operational: In the military these are the leaders who lead skilled teams on critical assignment. Whitesel describes them as the masters of relational leadership. They lead an intentional, personal effort to build a team of interdependent soldiers. Getting the job done would describe these leaders.

Whitsel summarizes by saying, “Regrettably, in the past twenty-five-plus years I have seen a decline in the important tactical leaders...tactical church leaders are often missing in our congregations. Thus, churches cannot bring about change, because they are drowning under a deluge of strategic visionaries with big ideas and multiple strategies who have little idea of how to get there.” (page 40)

Paul D. Borden, in *Direct Hit: Aiming Real Leaders at the Mission Field*, suggests two reasons for church decline and inward focus:

1. People in leadership positions do not see themselves as leaders—especially transformational leaders.
2. Those who function as leaders and even lead transformational change often do not have a well-developed communication strategy to effect the change.



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