# Stewardship Conversation Four

**THE ISSUE: Stewardship Fundamentals**

Where do we start when talking about Christian stewardship? Roy Bleick writes, "For Lutherans, Christian stewardship begins with the basic emphasis on justification by God on account of Christ's work by grace alone through faith. Justification does not occur through finding favor with God because of our actions. God justifies the ungodly on the basis of what Christ has done for sinners."

Knowing who we are in Christ moves us to acknowledge the following stewardship fundamentals as noted by Karl Kretzschmar in, *The Stewardship Life*:

1. God owns all things, man owns nothing.

2. Man is a steward, under God, of all he is and has and does.

3. The duties of stewardship demand that man live his life in full obedience to divine direction.

4. The ends of stewardship are the glorification of God, the extension of the Kingdom, and the relief of human ills.

Charles Lane, in *Ask, Thank, Tell*, says that biblically there are three things that can be said about the steward:

1. The steward is not the owner.

2. The steward has a position of high authority in the household of the owner and is given great responsibility.

3. The steward cares for the possessions of the owner both for the benefit of the owner and for the benefit of other people who depend on the owner for their well being.

**Talking It Over**

- What does it mean to say that it is the Gospel that motivates and empowers the Christian steward?
- What does it mean to say that it is the Law that instructs and informs the Christian steward?
- Discuss this statement by Charles Lane: "The biblical truth—that it all belongs to God—is the cornerstone of everything we have to say about stewardship."
- What did Kretzschmar mean when he said that the ends of stewardship are:
    - The glorification of God
    - The extension of the Kingdom
    - The relief of human ills

**Putting It Into Practice**

**What are the implications of the fact that most Christians who are in church on Sunday morning believe and act like owners instead of stewards? How can that attitude be changed?**

**Digging Deeper**

Read Karl Kretzschmar's book, *The Stewardship Life*, at faithaflame.lcms.org

Check out additional stewardship resources at Godsstewards.com