Stewards by God's Design: The Three R's of the Christian Steward

Relationships – Responsibilities - Resources

Christian stewardship is about the whole life of the Christian. It is not just about money, but it does include how the Christian manages the money and possessions God entrusts to his/her care.

Martin Luther wrote in his *Large Catechism* that money and possessions are the world's biggest idols. He also said that the desire for riches sticks glued to us until the grave. (LC, First Commandment)

Money is an important part of life. We need it to live, but we are not to desire it above all else. Scripture teaches us that those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 1 Timothy 6:9

Stewardship
Using God's Human Resources With Wisdom

The Resource of Treasure

In his book, *Redeeming Money*, Paul David Tripp lists the four foundations of a Gospel worldview. They are:

1. At the center of the universe is a God of incalculable glory.
2. We live in a world terribly broken by sin.
3. God offers us his heart and life-transforming grace.
4. We were created to live for something bigger than ourselves.

Why is a biblical worldview so important when considering money?

Another important question is, "Does faith have anything to do with how one stewards the money that God entrusts to his or her care?"

What does the Bible say about money and possessions?

1. Stewards by God's design understand that money is a trust form God.
    - Haggai 2:8
    - Leviticus 25:23
    - Psalm 50:10-12

Knowing that God owns the money and possessions we have means that we see things differently than most people. How is that so?

2. Stewards by God's design use His money for His purposes.
    - 1 Timothy 5:8
    - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
    - 1 John 3:17

3. Stewards by God's design are to be generous.
    - Psalm 112:5
    - 2 Corinthians 9:11-12
    - 1 Timothy 6:18-19

4. Stewards by God's design follow His guidelines for giving.
    - Proverbs 3:9
    - 2 Corinthians 8:12
    - Luke 21:1-4
    - Deuteronomy 16:16-17
    - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
    - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

5. Stewards by God's design have a heart that focuses on Jesus.
    - Matthew 6:21
    - Hebrews 12:1-2

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