

“The Lost Art of Christian Stewardship”

Pastor Todd Roberts

Genesis 2:15; Colossians 3:17, 23-24;

Romans 3:21-25a

January 9, 2010

You don't have to be a Christian to be generous, but if you're a Christian you have to be generous!

Every Christian must be generous for two biblical reasons:

Biblical Reason 1 You were created to be a steward.

A steward is “someone who manages or oversees the affairs or belongings of another.”

Biblical Reason 2 You were bought with a price.

Redemption = purchasing or buying back. The imagery behind this word is the ancient slave market. It meant paying the necessary ransom to obtain the prisoner's or slave's release.

Final thought:

God's intention is that we would recognize ourselves as dearly loved stewards who understand that we are His—all that we are, everything that we own belongs to God.

Additional Scripture and material:

steward, a word used to translate a number of terms and expressions in the Bible common to all of which is the idea of ‘overseeing’ the possessions, business affairs, property, servants, the training of children, etc., of an owner or master. A steward is one who is placed ‘over the house’ (Genesis. 43:19; 44:1, 4; 1 Kings 16:9; 18:3; etc.). That ‘house’ can be a private household and its function (Genesis 44:1; Luke 12:42; Gal. 4:2), a specific task (1 Chronicles. 29:6), a palace (Esther 1:8; 1 Kings 18:3; Isaiah. 36:3; Luke 8:3), business affairs (Matthew 20:8; Luke 16:1-8), a city treasury (Romans. 16:23), and in the NT in a metaphorical sense of the divine mysteries, i.e., the gospel revelation (1 Corinthians 4:1), a divine commission (1 Corinthians 9:17), or a divine gift (1 Peter 4:10).

Bishops/elders are called stewards (Titus 1:5-9) and are expected to possess holy qualities as they manage the household of God. The apostle Paul also saw himself as a steward (1 Corinthians 4:1-2) who would have to give an account of his stewardship (1 Corinthians 4:3-4; cf. 2 Timothy 4:7-8) as the Apostle to the Gentiles (Ephesians 3:2; Galatians 2:7-8; Romans 1:5-6; 13-15). There is also a sense in which every Christian is a steward entrusted with a divine gift (1 Peter 4:10). Faithful and wise stewardship of this gift or ‘talent’ will result in blessing and reward but unfaithfulness will result in judgment (Luke 12:42-43; Matthew 25:14-30). R.H.S.

¹**stew•ard** \□stü-ərd, □styü-; □st(y)u□rd\ *noun*

[Middle English, from Old English *steward*, from *stī*, *stig* hall, *sty* + *weard* ward — more at STY, WARD] before 12th century

- 1** : one employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns (as the supervision of servants, collection of rents, and keeping of accounts)
- 2** : **SHOP STEWARD**
- 3** : a fiscal agent
- 4** **a** : an employee on a ship, airplane, bus, or train who manages the provisioning of food and attends passengers
b : one appointed to supervise the provision and distribution of food and drink in an institution
- 5** : one who actively directs affairs : **MANAGER**

²**steward** *verb transitive*

1621 : to act as a steward for : **MANAGE** *verb intransitive* : to perform the duties of a steward

STEWARD, Genesis. 15:2; 43:19; 1 Chronicles. 28:1; Luke 8:3.

Figurative: The faithful steward described, Luke 12:35–38, 42. The unfaithful, described, Luke 16:1–8. See the parable of the pounds, Luke 19:12–27; of the talents, Matthew 25:14–30. Must be faithful, 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 4:10.

Harper's Bible Dictionary Software

Quotes:

“There are two ways in which a Christian may view his money—how much money shall I use for God? Or, how much of God's money shall I use for myself?”

Graham Scroggie

“I will remain with thee of whom I can receive but to whom I may not give.”

Martin Luther

“Good stewardship is a by-product of a right heart.”

Todd Roberts

“The most valuable thing in my life is to have the friends and family that I love, love me back.”

Paraphrased by Todd Roberts of Warren Buffet in an interview

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Jim Elliott

Additional related Bible verses:

Luke 12:42; 16:13-15

Titus 1:7

1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 9:17

1 Peter 4:10

Psalms 24:1

Proverbs 3:9-10

Romans 1:6; 3:21-25; 7:4; 12:1

Ephesians 5:15-16

1 Timothy 6:1-18

Mark 9:41

James 4:1

Exodus 35:5

Living a Generous Life Sermon Series

- January 9, 2011 “The Lost Art of Christian Stewardship”
Selected Scriptures, Pastor Todd Roberts
- January 16, 2011 “Where Should I Invest?”
Matthew 6:19-21, Pastor Jeff Burkholder
- January 23, 2011 “What’s the Goal?”
Matthew 25:14-28, Pastor Jeff Burkholder
- January 30, 2011 “Moving from Confusion to Clarity”
Psalm 119, John 15:1-8, Pastor Jeff Burkholder
- February 6, 2011 “The Corn Crate Principle”
Deuteronomy 26:1-15, Pastor Jim Hottenstein
- February 13, 2011 “The Reverse Blessing Principle”
2 Corinthians 8:1-15, Pastor Jim Hottenstein
- February 20, 2011 “Extravagant Generosity”
2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Pastor Jeff Burkholder
- February 27, 2011 “It’s Decision Time”
James 1:22-25, Pastor Jeff Burkholder