

Be a Godly Steward

Theme: The Bible requires that every Christian be a godly steward. God is your CEO and Boss. You are His steward and manager. When you steward yourself you have maximum impact with minimum stress. Stewardship is entrusted to you by God. No matter what kind of steward you have been, you can improve and be a better godly steward by managing your life, with excellence, according to God's way and not your own way.

A. How to Be a Godly Steward.

1. Are you a steward?
 - a. Are you overseeing people or a department in a business or ministry whether currently or in the past?
 - b. Do you regularly inquire of the Holy Spirit what you should do, hear His voice clearly and obey Him?
 - c. Is there a financial consultant or advisor managing your assets and investment portfolio?
2. If you answered Yes, to any of these 3 questions, then you are a steward or have been a steward.
3. Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor 10:31

B. Adam Was Created to Be a Godly Steward.

1. God created everything and owns everything. Gen 1
 - a. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:1
 - b. How to be a Godly Steward.
 - 1) ⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation (Jesus). Col 1:9-16

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

2. God created man to be His godly steward to manage His Kingdom of God.
 - a. And God said, “Let us make man in our image, Gen 1:26–28 after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
 - b. The Lord God took the man and placed him in the Gen 2:15 (HCSB) garden of Eden to **work (dress, tend)** it and **watch over (keep or take care of it as a caretaker)**.
 - 1) Strong’s Concordance Hebrew definition of “**work:**” is H5647 âbad which means a **servant** (or employee) **and worshipper**.
 - 2) Strong’s Concordance Hebrew definition of “**watch over, keep or take care of it as a caretaker:**” is H8104 “shamar” which means a **watchman**.
 - 3) Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition of **watchman: is steward** or synonym is **manager**.
 - 4) Biblical definition of “**steward:**” In the NT, is found in Strong’s Concordance in the Greek 3623 “oikonomos,” in the Greek means “**the manager or steward of a household.**”
 - a) As each one has received a gift, minister it 1 Peter 4:2 to one another, as good **stewards (or managers)** of the manifold grace of God.

C. Be a Godly Steward of Your Time and Sabbath Day of Rest.

1. ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk! Eph 5:15-16 (AMPC)
Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people),
¹⁶ Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.
2. [Earnestly] remember the Sabbath day, to keep it Ex 20:8 (AMPC)
holy (withdrawn from common employment and dedicated to God).

D. Be a Godly Steward of Your Money, Financial Resources and Giving.

1. Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Heb 13:5
2. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 1 Tim 6:10
3. Seeking advice from financial consultants is wise. Prov 11:14
 - a. Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in
 - b. the multitude of counselors there is safety.
4. Are you a godly steward of your finances? 1 Thess 4:11-12
 Aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.
 - a. Do you pay your bills on time? Rom 13:7
 - b. Do you pay your Tithes first to God as 10% of your income before paying other bills? Mal 3:10; Gen 28:22
 - c. When you don't have enough money to pay your monthly bills, do you withhold your Tithes and Offering and do not pay the church? Mal 3:8
 - d. Do you expect to receive 30, 60 or 100 fold from God but do not give Financial Offerings to your church in addition to your Tithes? Matt 13:8
 - e. Do you have a savings plan? Prov 13:11
 - f. Do you overspend? Prov 21:20
 (especially on desired things that are not basic needs)
 - g. Do you balance your account regularly and live by a budget? Prov 27:23
 - h. Do you implement a Debt Reduction Plan if you have a lot of debt? Rom 13:8
 - i. Do you provide for yourself, dependents and those in need like missionaries and the poor? 1 Tim 5:8; Gal 6:6;
Matt 25:35-40
 - j. Are you working and believing for increase or are you expecting God to pay your bills for you? 1 Tim 5:17-18
 - k. Are you giving of yourself and your time as an active participant in your household or church financially, physically and spiritually? Eccl 4:9
5. Are you a generous giver to your church and others?
 - a. ⁶ But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2 Cor 9:6-7

⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

E. Be a Godly Steward of Your Talents.

1. Joseph, an excellent godly steward of his talents.

- a. ¹ Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Gen. 39:1-6a
And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. ² **The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man;** and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. ³ **And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand.** ⁴ **So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.** ⁵ So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that **the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field.** ⁶ Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand...

F. Be a Godly Steward of Your Tongue and Words.

1. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, Prov 18:21
and those who love it will eat its fruit.
a. Kobe Bryant always said he wanted to die young to be immortalized and have his career be better than Michael Jordan (New York Post).
2. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of Ps 19:14 (AMPC)
my heart be acceptable in Your sight.

G. Be a Godly Steward of Your Behavior.

1. Paul says, people ought to regard us as servants 1 Cor 4:1
of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

H. Be a Godly Steward of Your Life:

Family, Marriage, School, Job, Career, Ministry, and Retirement.

1. Take a Quiz to examine yourself to see if you are a 1 Cor 13:5
godly steward by seeking God as the Lord and Boss of your life because you truly love God so much that you seek His desires above your own.
- a. Do you spend time praying and conversing with God daily?
b. Do you read the Word of God and your Bible daily?
c. Do you attend church at least 2 times a week?
d. Do you cheerfully give your Tithes and Offerings to your church and to God's work faithfully without skipping?
e. Do you consider God as your Boss and yourself as His steward or manager in every area of your life, giving Him glory?
f. Do you ask the Holy Spirit for permission for everything you do so as to be a godly steward?