



Four Principles of Stewardship

We are each called at baptism to live life as a disciple of Christ. We are called to live life according to God's plan using the gifts He has given us to help others and glorify His name. Simply put, we are asked to live life with these four principles in mind...

Love of The Father

God in himself "is love", who gives himself completely, who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son [so] that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16-17). It is difficult for us to even grasp the magnitude of this gift from God's unconditional love for us.

It is essential to recognize God's gifts and our dependence on Him. Everything we are and everything we have comes to us from God. This is directly opposed to a culture that praises self-sufficiency. It is through faith in God's love for us that we recognize how we have been blessed. We have confidence in God's steadfast care. Stewardship cultivates an attitude of abundance.

Receive God's gifts with gratitude

Gratitude comes from humbly recognizing the generosity of God and being open to God's gifts. It is essential for us to think of God's gifts in a broader sense, not just material things here on earth. Our faith, hope, love, joy, relationships with others, intelligence, talents and skills, imagination, compassion and vision are all gifts. When we recognize these in ourselves and in our world, we are receiving that gift. Receiving requires genuine humility. It demands that we enter into relationship with the giver. Gratitude acknowledges abundance. Our gratitude should know no bounds.

We are accountable to God

It is our duty to cultivate God's gifts responsibly. Literally, steward means manager of the house. God has entrusted His house to us. We are accountable to God for managing the gifts given to us. We do so for the glory of God and in service of all humans.

We are expected to take care of the gifts. We build on them by feeding them and using them in a way that God has planned for us. When we plan to do something with one of these gifts, we must ask..."What would God say about my use of His gift? Would He approve or disapprove? Am I ashamed to tell Him how it was used?"

The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was for our salvation. Christ's sacrifice is the model of love. We are to continue Jesus' saving work. We are to be true disciples and stewards of the Gospel message. Stewardship shifts the focus from us to our relationship with God.

Return God's gifts with increase to the Lord

It is often the fear of losing what we have together with inertia that keeps us from giving. Yet, the Gospel message tells us God's gifts are not meant to be hoarded and greedily protected but rather cultivated and wisely invested. He has planned for us to use the gifts for the purpose of increasing His kingdom.

Faith in God's love and abiding care gives us the confidence to give so that our gifts may bear much fruit. Returning to the Lord with increase is a decision of faith.

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven."