

Christian Stewardship

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What is Christian Stewardship? Christian stewardship is a way of living in which we recognize that everything belongs to God. (Ps. 24:1). A steward is someone who handles or manages the affairs for someone else. In ancient kingdoms, stewards ran the country in the absence of the king. Upon the king's return, the steward gave a full accounting of his actions. Even when the king was present, the steward often handled the daily affairs of the kingdom. However, a steward, did not own the kingdom. And the king determined when and how long a steward would serve him.

We find many examples of stewards being placed over the affairs of their masters. Abram had a steward. He was Eliezer of Damascus, a slave born in the house of Abram. Were Abram not to have offspring, Eliezer would receive his freedom and inherit all Abram's possessions (Gen. 15:2-3). In Genesis 41, we find the story of Joseph and how Pharaoh made him steward over the land of Egypt. Joseph was not part of the royal family, and he would not inherit the throne. Yet, because of Joseph's wisdom and discretion given by God, Pharaoh entrusted the entire kingdom to his care "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only as regards the throne will I be greater than you" (Gen. 41:40).

This concept of stewardship dates from the beginning of time, when God entrusted the earth to Adam and Eve and their offspring (Gen. 1:26-28). All men are stewards of the earth's resources. God expects that we will use all for His glory and the salvation of souls. (Gen 1:26-28). God gave us life and the gift of eternal life. He created us for Himself, and He wants our total person (Matt. 19:16-24). How we use the resources in our control expresses our gift to self to God. In short, God doesn't want our resources but He wants us. Stewardship means that we recognize that God owns it all. We have been entrusted with the goods, but we own nothing. Our time, our talents and our treasure is used for the glory of God.