

**Stewardship Emphasis:**

**Everyday Stewards**

**Week Two:**

**“Stewardship as a Way of Life”**

**Week One: “We are Ambassadors for Christ”**



Do we want to be stewards? Probably not. Our first impulse is that we want to be owners. We want to have possessions, want to be important, to be respected, even to be envied. That is not how it works, though. God owns everything, “*The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof…”* (Psalm 24:1). No, nothing is ours, but God has given us the high calling of stewards. From the beginning God called us to be stewards (Genesis 1:28; 2:15). With such a high calling comes responsibility and accountability: *“Moreover,”* writes the Apostle Paul, *“it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy”* (1 Corinthians 4:2

**Stewards Led by the Spirit**

Because we are uplifted and sustained by the Holy Spirit, we can be faithful stewards. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“…no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit”* (1 Corinthians 12:3). The Holy Spirit, working through Word and Sacraments, gives us faith, so we willingly serve in our homes, churches, neighborhoods, giving generously of ourselves to help those in need and expand the kingdom. By our own reason or strength, we cannot be the stewards God wants us to be. Having been reconciled to God through Christ, we are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). Just as God initiated that reconciliation, He also chooses us to be His stewards (John 15:16). Our stewardship, as a way of life, is a response to what God has already done.

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**A Faithful Steward’s Lifestyle**

What do people who live a faithful steward’s lifestyle look like? Can you tell by their appearance that they are faithful stewards? Do they do certain things that would identify them as faithful stewards? Maybe they drop a big check into the offering plate on Christmas and Easter. Perhaps they serve as ushers or care for little ones in the nursery once a month in their churches.

These certainly are laudable acts of service, but the word lifestyle suggests that more is involved. If you look closely, you will see that faithful stewards are different because they are “new creations” (2 Corinthians 5:17). They have *“put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”* (Ephesians 4:24). As *“new creations”* they seek God’s will (Ephesians 5:17), and sporadic acts of service become part of daily life, namely the steward’s lifestyle. Because our sinful nature no longer controls us, our lifestyles reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our minds are set on doing what the Spirit desires.

**Witnessing, Serving, and Giving**

**Witnessing:** As stewards of God’s grace, we have been called and chosen to be His mouth, feet, and hands to help seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). The Apostle Paul tells us, *“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us”* (2 Corinthians 5:20). Knowing that God *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4), we have a great privilege and responsibility as Christ’s ambassadors*.* With the Holy Spirit working in and through us, we can faithfully and boldly proclaim the Gospel to those around us.

**Serving:** We are reminded by His words of, *“…even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many”* (Matthew 20:28). Jesus makes it clear that He wants to develop a servant spirit in His disciples and us. Being conformed to the image of God, we take on the role of servants.God’s love changes our mindset from wanting to please ourselves to a desire to serve others. Seeing others as our brothers and sisters in Christ helps us follow God’s command to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31).

**Giving:** In Christ, we can stop putting our self-interests first and seek to be giving and sharing people. We live as everyday stewardsbecause we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In faith, we give generously and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9;7).

Love is what motivated God to give. He did not give leftovers; He gave His best. He gave what we need—His own Son. Through faith, we begin to understand God’s tremendous love for us, and we are compelled to share with others the love of God that fills our hearts. The more fully we understand how richly God has blessed us, the deeper will be our love and gratitude to Him and the greater will be our desire to respond in generous giving.

**Blessings on your Journey to Be an Everyday Steward**