



We are the Church

23-Feb: What is Stewardship

Series Summary: It is commonly said that students (teenagers) are the future church. This is wrong. Students are the current church. They are a part of the body of Christ (the ekklesia). In this series, we are going to discuss what it means to be a part of the local church.

Big Idea/Question: We are called to be good stewards of our time, talents, and money in every age and life stage.

GET THEM TALKING

How do you know if someone is committed to the local church? To put it another way, how does someone show that they value the local church?

Leader Note: This question has plenty of answers. Here are a few that come to mind. If we value something then we make time for it. If we value something we want to help (serve).

How does giving money to the local church fit into this?

VIDEO TEACHING

STEWARDS Vs. OWNERS

Simply put whatever we value...

- We make time for
- We freely put effort into
- We willingly put money towards

There is not any escaping that as true.

The problem is when you bring up money, people often times get defensive. They think that all you care about is getting their money. The problem with that logic is the phrase “my money”, “my time”, or “my” anything.

Ownership vs. Stewardship - The biblical Truth is that we do not own anything. Instead, we are stewards of everything, and there is a big difference.

Steward (or overseer): The steward was a household servant who managed the household affairs for the head of the family. Managing the family involved delegation, discipline, encouragement, and, most importantly, accountability to the head of the household. **Here is why we are stewards...**

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (*steward or manage it*).

Psalms 24:1-2 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; **2** for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Transition - So here is the question. What does it look like for us to be good stewards? What are we called to steward?

GROUP DISCUSSION

(Stewardship)

What are we called to be good stewards of? In other words, what has God given us that we should make sure we use well to glorify Him?

Leader Note: The answer to this question is extensive! But here are the three that I would center around.

- Our time
- Our abilities
- Our money (covered at the end of group discussion)

How do we steward our time?

How do you know if you are stewarding your time well?

How do we steward our abilities (spiritual gifts or talents) well? How are you doing this?

Leader Note: The reality is that if we are not serving in the local church, then we are not being good stewards of our abilities (spiritual gifts or talents). We will talk about this more extensively next week in small groups.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(giving, tithing & generosity)

Why is it important to give to the local church?

Is being a good steward of your money and giving to the local church the same thing?

Leader Note: Being a good steward of your money means using your money wisely. Part of that means that we give generously to the local church. But stewarding our money well means that we also do not spend our money like idiots. Many Christians have the best of intentions of giving to the church, but fail to because they have mismanaged their money (Prov 21:5).

How much should you give to the church?

Leader Note: Many would say that you should give 10% of your income. This is commonly referred to as tithing or a tithe. Throughout the Old Testament, Israelites were expected to give 10 percent of their resources to God. That tithe or “tenth part” was a requirement of the law. This command can be found in Deuteronomy 14:22-26. We should keep in mind that we are not under the Old Testament Law. So, are you required to give 10%? No. We can give more or less than that. The goal is not to meet a percentage quota. The goal is to give generously. This is why Paul wrote these words of encouragement to the Church of Corinth.

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. **7** Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. **9** As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”