

STEWARDSHIP 101-1

TAUGHT BY BARRY MCWILLIAMS
CHAPEL HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ADULT CLASS FALL 2003

Introduction: "Stewardship"

What does the word "stewardship" bring to your mind?

Where in the Bible would you go to learn about it?

*"Christian stewardship is
the free and joyous activity
of the child of God and God's family, the church,
in managing all of life and life's resources
for God's purposes."*

Time

Eph 5:15,16
Col 4:5

Talents

Rom 12:3-8 – 1 Cor 12
Eph 4:11-16

Treasure

1 Tim 6:6-8; 18-19
2 Cor 8:3-14; 9:7,8

For The Glory of God

1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:23,24, 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor 6:19,20

A church's definition:

*"Christian stewardship is
the free and joyous activity
of the child of God and God's family, the church,
in managing all of life and life's resources
for God's purposes."*

The above definition of Christian Stewardship has been used in our church for a few decades. It contains only 29 words, but what a mouthful when you consider the application of the various parts of this definition.

"Free and joyous." Many people do not think of stewardship as being free and joyous but it really can be when we have the calm assurance that our God richly provides all that we need for the support and wants of our body and life.

"Child of God." What a beautiful title for God's people! The opening verses of 1 John 3 speak of the lavish love of God resulting in making us His very own children. What great good news and what a powerful reminder of the proper motivation for our stewardship activity – love to our God who first loved us.

"God's family, the church." This phrase reminds us that our stewardship is not a solo performance but is done within the Christian community to honor God and benefit others.

"In managing all of life and life's resources." Part of our stewardship struggle is that we think we "own" all those things that surround us when, in truth, we are managers. Another part of our struggle is that we may think that Stewardship is just about money, time and talents. Christian stewardship is about those things and more; Christian stewardship involves our whole life--everything that God has entrusted to us to manage as faithful stewards.

"For His purposes." Maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons. All we do as Christian stewards is to be done to the glory of God and for the welfare of others as well as ourselves. Who said stewardship was easy? If it were, everyone would be doing it!

<http://216.239.51.100/search?q=cache:tBGJQde7A2UC:dcs.lcms.org/stewardship/download.asp%3Ffiletype%3Ddoc%26filename%3DBulletinInsert.doc+christian+stewardship&hl=en&ie=UTF-8>