

Elements



Week 4 - Stewardship

March 3, 2024

Acts 4:32-35 - “ Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”

Stewardship - satisfying the needs of others together.

The **Paradigm** For Stewardship

God Owns and Provides

- Transition from King David to King Solomon.
- “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.” - 1 Chronicles 29:14
- Romans 11:36, 1 Timothy 6:17-19

We Manage and Share

- Because we don’t own what we have, we manage it because it’s been entrusted to us.
- How can I use everything I have for his glory, not my pleasure?
- Things we must steward: time, emotions, convenience, skills, talents, passions, money.
- Don’t be a spiritual hoarder.
- 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 4:1, James 2:14-17

A **Pattern** for Stewardship

Acts 4:32-35

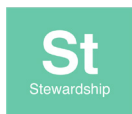
The **Priority**

- One of the outcomes of the moving of the Spirit was generosity.
- Is your first step to help others when you see a need?

Their **Sensitivity**

- How often do we let opportunities pass us by?
- A steward sees giving as a priority and satisfies the needs of those around them.

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Their *Generosity*

- There were no needs in the early church because their needs were being fulfilled by the community.
- One of our biggest problems of Christians is that we are not aware of the presence of God and the needs of others.

Their *Accountability*

- Ananias and Sapphira held back part of their gift and were held accountable (Acts 5).

Our *Plan* for Stewardship

Acknowledging the *Giver*

- We often think about one person - which is ourself.

Noticing the *Need*

- After you notice the need, listen and serve.

Moving to *Share*

- What good is it if you see a need, but don't do anything to help? (James 2:16).
- This is evidence of no faith.
- See the need, satisfy the need.

Developing the *Habit*

- Some give because they feel guilty and some haven't developed a habit of regular giving.
- Some of you attend and take in this body, but you're not committing to the body with your generosity.

Your Plan

What practical step will you take **today** to prioritize the element of stewardship in your walk with Christ?