

Stewardship Part 1: Your Testimony

Author: Michael Guerra

Preview

Stewardship is understanding that everything in our lives should be available to God; we must put our blessings to use in God's kingdom.

Praise

Ask a student what he/she is thankful for. Each student should share something...no repeats.

Parable

Have you ever interacted with a toddler? One of the first words that children learn is "Mine!" They'll shuffle through your purse or dig things out of your backpack, and when you ask for it back, they'll scream "Mine!" You'll give them your cell phone to play a game, and when you ask for it back... "Mine!"

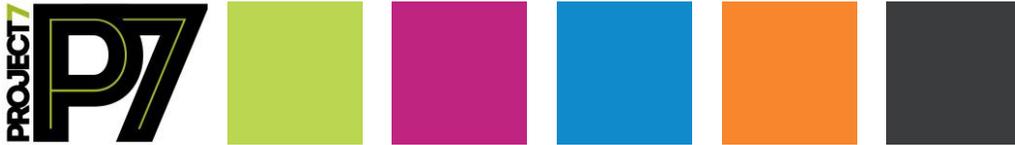
Present

Sometimes we can be like that toddler! Is that what God wants from us? Of course not! The Bible even shows us that what is "mine" was never "mine" to begin with!

Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

Because everything that we are belongs to God, the principles of stewardship are important in our lives. A *steward* is "a person employed to manage another's property." God wants us to manage our lives in a way that maximizes our value to Him and to His kingdom.

Stewardship requires faithfulness. **1 Corinthians 4:2:** "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."



If we are faithful stewards, we will use that with which God has blessed us to grow His kingdom. A faithful steward is not selfish. He/she is not concerned with personal glory, gain, or gratification. A faithful steward holds nothing back from God.

One of the things with which God has entrusted us is our testimony. **Revelation 12:11** tells us that the righteous who stand before God at the end time will have overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, loving not their lives even in the face of death.

Our testimony gives us power over Satan and the wickedness of this world. It is a tool God can use to draw others to Him! This can only happen, though, if our testimony is submitted to Him!

“They loved not their lives unto the death.” This is opposite of what comes natural! As toddlers, we scream, “Mine!” As teenagers, we see the latest trend and think, “Mine!” God is calling us to change our “Mine!” to “Thine!”

Why is our testimony so powerful? People can argue the Bible with us; they cannot argue what we have seen and experienced.

Jesus sat with a woman at a well in Samaria in John 4. The Samaritans did not like Jews, and the Jews did not like Samaritans. There were extreme differences in beliefs between them. Jesus sat with this woman, though, and ministered to her. He called out the sin in her life, and encouraged her to become a true worshiper. When Jesus was done talking, she dropped her water pot, went into the city, and declared in **John 4:29**, “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? “

What was the result of her sharing her testimony? **John 4:39**, “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.”

They could argue that the Jews had the wrong doctrinal perspective, but they could not argue against the woman’s experience!

We have a great testimony, and God wants us to share it! **Luke 11:33**: “No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.”

When we share our testimony, we become good stewards of the grace God has shown to us.



Practice

As time permits, give as many students an opportunity to share a testimony about something God has done for them as are willing.

Pray

Pray with the students for God to help them to be a light to their world, allowing their testimony to shine through.

Plus

Instruct the students to make a list of some of the common ways the devil tries to distract them from living for God (each list will be unique, as the students are examining their personal struggles). Once they have their list, encourage them to write a testimony next to each of these items detailing a time God has carried them through that particular trial.