

First Friends Church
STEWARDSHIP – The “Backpack”
10-4-09

ONE Challenge: Make disciples - Matthew 28:19

Two Lives: One on One Discipling – 2 Timothy 2:2; Eccl. 4:9

“Disciple” – committed to knowing, loving & following Jesus.

Discipling Equipment: www.ss.pd

Word, Witness, Worship, **Stewardship**, Service, Prayer,
and Discipleship

Vision: *Imagine ONE life restored eternally, growing spiritually
and reaching ONE more!* **Who’s your ONE?**

STEWARDSHIP is a two-way trust between God and us.

A steward is a caretaker and manager of resources.

Cultural Myths: True or False?

1. My hard work will always result in MORE material possessions.
2. Material possessions determine my worth, significance and security.
3. What I do with my material possessions has nothing to do with my faith in God.
4. I must first have all I need before I can be generous.
5. There is a spiritual formula for giving that results in receiving specific material blessing.

A. Stewardship means we trust God as:

1. **The OWNER and creator of all our resources.**
Genesis 1; Ps. 24:1
 - a. It’s ALL His, not mine and He’s in charge.
 - b. Purpose for resources? **Receive & pass on BLESSING and PROVISION.**

2. **The extravagant GIVER and provider of all things.** James 1:17; Rom. 8:31-32

- a. God gave all of creation to Adam & Eve – Gen. 1:28-29
- b. Father knows our needs and will provide – Mt. 6:32-33

3. **The JUDGE who holds us accountable for how we “steward” His resources.**

- a. *“It is required that those who are given a trust must prove faithful.”* 1 Cor. 4:2
- b. God will evaluate our faithfulness. Matt. 25

B. Stewardship means God is trusting us to be:

1. **GRACE-FILLED** (daily) – 2 Cor. 9:8
 - a. Sinful and separated from God and his plan to steward resources – Rom. 3:23; Gen. 3
 - i. Satan caused Eve to question God’s OWNERSHIP & GENEROSITY.
 - ii. Adam & Eve’s response was rebellion and irresponsibility.
 - b. Give yourself first to God – 2 Cor. 8:5
 - i. Generosity is our spiritual DNA!
2. **GRATEFUL receivers** – 2 Cor. 9:7, 10-11
 - a. God supplies our needs and we thank him – Mt. 6:32-33
3. **GENEROUS GIVERS** – 2 Cor. 9:12-15
 - a. God trusts us to provide for the needs of others with His resources.
 - b. We are not giving TO a church...we ARE the Church!
 - c. Our generosity helps others to see Jesus in us!

C. What is the “tithe” – literally means 10% of resources.

- First came through Abraham as a life principle
Gen. 14:20; 28:20
- **First Covenant principle** – from God to Moses:
 - **Priority in worship** – not because He needs it...our hearts need it!
 - “First Fruits” – first and best to God
 - **Provision of needs** – for God’s people.
 - Bring “tithe” to the “storehouse.”
Mal. 3:10 (local church)
- **Obsolete with OT?**
 - **Jesus** reaffirms tithing but rebukes religious leaders for legalism without mercy. Luke 11:42
 - He says they should practice both!
 - **Apostle Paul** instructs house churches to give generously.
 - Supports bishops and elders
 - Provide for poor
- **New Covenant is about giving EVERYTHING back to Christ!**
 - No legal obligation to give 10%.
 - Our responsibility is to give generously to God’s work and his people!
 - Percentages may even LIMIT our grace-filled generosity.
- **Goal: Excel in giving!**
 - **Priority of Worship**
 - **Provision of needs**

2 Corinthians 8:7 *“But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”*

“Not sure all happy people are generous but generous people sure seem happy.”

D. Discipleship Questions:

1. How would I live my life differently if I saw God as the OWNER of all my resources?
 - a. Have you acknowledged God’s ownership?
“bought with a price”
2. How would I live my life differently if I view God was an extravagant GIVER?
3. Do I see God as JUDGE holding me accountable?
4. Am I daily asking for God’s GRACE to overcome sin, selfishness, and fear?
5. Am I GRATEFUL and thanking God for his blessing and provision?
6. Is God’s GRACE overflowing from me in generous giving?