



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Jean-Michel Etienne, Ph.D.



Stewardship as an Act of Love: Faithfulness in Managing God's Gifts

Christian Stewardship is more than handling finances or managing resources—it's fundamentally an expression of love for God and others. When we see ourselves as caretakers of what God has entrusted to us—our time, talents, resources, and the environment—our stewardship becomes an act of worship. Faithfulness in stewardship visibly demonstrates our relationship with God, showing gratitude for His blessings and dedication to His mission.

1. The Biblical Foundation of Loving Stewardship

The Bible presents stewardship as an inseparable part of discipleship. Everything we have comes from God:

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1, KJV).

When we recognize God's ownership, we see our resources not as possessions to hoard but as blessings to manage for His glory. Jesus illustrated this in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), teaching that God entrusts each of us with different gifts and expects us to use them faithfully. Faithful stewardship is love because it aligns our priorities with God's purposes, showing trust and obedience.

2. Love as the Motive for Stewardship

Faithful stewardship flows from love, not obligation. The Apostle Paul reminds us: "Let all your things be done with charity" (1 Corinthians 16:14, KJV).

When love is the foundation, stewardship becomes joyful service rather than a burdensome duty. Our giving, serving, and managing resources are acts of gratitude for God's grace, mirroring Christ's sacrificial love, who gave His all for us.

3. Ellen G. White on Stewardship and Love

Ellen G. White emphasizes that stewardship is profoundly spiritual and rooted in love for God: "Love to God must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian's character" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 49).

She also reminds us that we are accountable for every blessing entrusted to us:

"God has made men His stewards, and entrusted them with talents of influence, means, and opportunities. He desires them

to be faithful in rendering to Him the things that are His own" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 448).

This accountability is not meant to cause fear but to inspire a greater sense of responsibility born from love and loyalty to our Creator.

4. Faithfulness in All Areas

Stewardship is comprehensive—it covers time, talents, treasures, and the environment. Being faithful in small things is just as crucial as in larger responsibilities (Luke 16:10). Using our time to serve others, developing our God-given abilities, supporting the church's mission through tithes and offerings, and caring for creation are all acts of love that honor God.

5. The Eternal Impact of Faithful Stewardship

Our faithfulness as stewards has eternal consequences. Jesus declared, "Well done, good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21, KJV).

Heaven's praise isn't based on how much we possessed, but on how faithfully we managed what was entrusted to us.

6. Stewardship as a Witness to the World

Faithful stewardship isn't just a personal spiritual practice—it's a powerful witness to others. When people see Christians managing resources with integrity, generosity, and purpose, it points them to the God we serve. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, KJV).

Stewardship is more than responsibility—it's a relationship. Every act of faithful management declares our love for God and our desire to serve Him. When we give, serve, and live with eternity in mind, we reflect our Creator's heart. To be a faithful steward is to love God enough to manage His gifts in a way that blesses others and furthers His kingdom.

Let us embrace stewardship not as an obligation but as an ongoing act of love—faithful, joyful, and wholly dedicated to the One who first loved us.



"When we act from love, the treasures we bestow are returned to us again, in rich and everlasting blessings."

Ellen G. White (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 646).

