

More on Stewardship

A steward is one who handles an owner's property as the owner would want it handled. In a day when slow travel and communication created many absentee business owners, the steward was responsible for making daily decisions as the owner would make them.

As God's stewards, how are we to manage His resources? What is important to Him? Sure, He wants us to value and respect His ownership too much to waste what He has entrusted to us. But penny-pinching and maximizing profits are not the essence of the stewardship He desires. Remember, He can create anything He wants by simply speaking the word.

What is important to Him? Where does He want His resources focused?

God is love (1 John 4:8). *Love* is precious to Him. *People* are precious to Him. Look at the way He spent His one and only Son. He was willing to sacrifice what was most precious to Him for the good of His people.

If we want to please our Owner, we must treat people well. That means everyone: family and strangers, friends and the unfriendly, next-door neighbors and people across the globe. God is love. If we love Him, we will love those He loves. They are all unspeakably dear to Him. He asks us to love them all as much as we love ourselves.

This "golden rule" isn't some secondary, optional commandment. It is the prime directive. And there is no business exemption. He doesn't say, "Treat people the way you want to be treated, as long as they treat you fairly" or "as long as it doesn't cost too much." Jesus said that loving God and loving other people are the two greatest, most essential commandments in all the world. Everything...everything...hangs on these two commands. (Read Matthew 22:34-40.)

Further, if you want to please your Owner, trust Him. He treasures the simple faith of His children. Trust Him with every need and every concern. Words of trust aren't good enough. He wants you to prove your trust by the way you use His resources.

In summary, if we want to be a good steward and please the God who trusted you with His resources, use them to love people. That's how this Owner wants His resources spent. Treat people as He would treat them. And show God that you trust Him by the way you spend what He has lent you. Remember what Jesus said:

"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things [the necessities of life] will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33, NASB)

Listen and sing:
Hymn: *Listen to Love*
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