

What Is Christian Stewardship?

The short answer: Christian stewardship is the faithful management of all that God gives.

Jesus summed up the spiritual connection between money and God this way: “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Luke 12:34).”

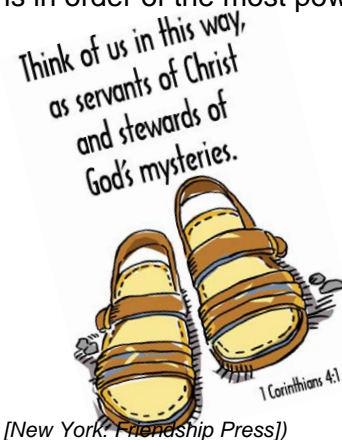
That verse succinctly defines Christian stewardship: treasure management that helps people to escape the trap of selfishness by keeping their hearts spiritually focused on God. Each of us makes one of two choices in life. We either become emotionally attached to our money or we become emotionally attached to the God who gives us our money. Although we often hope to do both, in our heart we know that cannot happen. Financial stewardship helps us to overcome the temptation to break the First Commandment and put a false idol first, ahead of the God who revealed Himself in Jesus Christ. The faithful management of everything God gives them helps the givers grow spiritually by committing a PLEDGE to God’s work through their congregation. (Article excerpts reprinted from TheParishNews.com)

What Motivates People to Give Generously?

Over 26 million Christians were asked why they give to their church. One finding I believe true is that when churches ask for money, they do not have to create the motivation to give they connect with a motivation already strongly rooted in human nature. The list below is in order of the most powerful motivator. Where do you fit on the list?

1. Feel gratitude to God.
2. See giving as part of their spiritual relationship with God.
3. Feel privileged to serve.
4. Like to help other people.
5. Want to help their church.
6. See giving as a duty.
7. Feel that giving adds meaning to life.
8. Give out of habit.
9. Feel guilty if they do not give.
10. Feel God’s judgment if they do not give.
11. Give because of social/peer pressure.

(Reprinted from: *Punctured Preconceptions* by Douglas W. Johnson and George W. Cornell [New York: Friendship Press])



Far more people are motivated to give money to God’s ministries through their church by items 1-5 than by 6-11. Another way to put it: The most generous members believe they are strengthening their relationship with God and helping the less fortunate; the least generous givers are motivated by maintaining the building and the congregation.

There was a question in the article which asked, “Why does your congregation give”? I believe that we are like most of the Christians surveyed, that we feel gratitude to God.

Please consider a commitment, your pledge to God and your church. Without your gratitude to God, our good word, work and fellowship that has touched so many lives within our community and throughout the world will slowly be silenced.

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