



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# Developing a Stewardship Philosophy

# What is Stewardship?

- Recognition that:
  - God owns everything
  - He is responsible for our wealth
  - He entrusts us with his money
  - We are accountable to God
- Stewardship is the grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in the light of God's purpose as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to conscious, purposeful decisions

# Why do we give?

- Our main duty is to Glorify God through worship...one way we do that is by giving...
- Worship, as reflected in our attitude toward money, means we are to build His kingdom through support of His Church
- As Christians, we are commanded to love others as ourselves which, in part, means giving our time, talent & treasures to help others less fortunate

# How much are we supposed to give?

- Tithe is Old Testament requirement vaguely confirmed in the New Testament
- Even if an Old Testament command, would Jesus expect less?
- New testament teaches to give ourselves as a living sacrifice (Romans 12)
- How much would God expect us to give to worship and glorify him and be obedient to his commands to build His kingdom and love others as ourselves?

# How do we decide how much to give?

- If God owns it all, every financial decision becomes a spiritual decision
- When I spend money, I am acting as God's money manager
- How would God want me to spend or invest his money?
- Realizing that we are accountable to him, don't we need to give as much as we can and give sacrificially?

# What are our barriers to giving?

- Materialism: we are under intense peer and societal pressure to increase our standard of living...build bigger houses (barns, as in the parable of the rich fool, Luke 12:13-21)
- Disobedience: we are commanded to love others as ourselves and specifically commanded to care for the poor, do we?

# What steps can we take to increase our level giving?

- If young, minimize increases in your standard of living as your income increases
- If older, consider lowering your standard of living
- Think in terms of how God would want me to spend his money...do I need a bigger barn or nicer car?
- Ask yourself, how much is enough?
- When planning your estate, ask how much will my children really need?
- Give to be a tax minimizer and a Kingdom maximizer!
- Start by tithing

# Stages of Spiritual Maturity Toward Stewardship: Where do you fall?

	<b>Infant</b>	<b>Adolescent</b>	<b>Adult</b>
<b>Value System</b>	Love the world and things of the world	Dissatisfied, searching for something more satisfying	Love Christ with their whole heart
<b>Source of Significance</b>	Possessions, status, titles	Searching, transitioning	In Christ
<b>Life Orientation</b>	Self	Others	Christ
<b>Stewardship Orientation</b>	Mine	Ours	God owns everything
<b>Attitude for Giving</b>	Defensive and reluctant	Beginning to enjoy sharing	Joyful giver
<b>Motive for Giving</b>	Selfish or guilt driven	Self-interest	Worship
<b>Object of Faith</b>	Self	Transitioning	Christ

# Who should I give to?

- The Church
- Ministries pursuing the Great Commission (evangelism)
- Ministries pursuing the Great Commandment (love others and especially those less fortunate)
- Ministries that are effective
- Ask yourself, would the Lord want me to give to this?
- Does this mean, we are supposed to give only to Christian ministries?...No, but...

# Stewardship Philosophy

- What are my core beliefs, objectives and commitments with respect to money and giving?
- Recognizing that God Owns Everything, what is my allocation of resources between:
  - Consumption
  - Savings
  - Giving