

FAITHFUL AS STEWARDS

1 CORINTHIANS 4:2

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:2

1 Corinthians 4:2

² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Introduction:

When the builders of a proposed bridge across the Niagara Falls began construction many years ago, the first matter at hand was how to span the river with the suspension cables.

Launching a simple kite, the builders were able to get a thin string across.

Using the string, they drew a rope across, which was followed by a larger rope, then a small cable, and finally a cable heavy enough to use as support in building the bridge.

When it was completed, the huge structure, that could support a train, showed no signs of having once been launched by a simple kite!

The subject of stewardship is simple subject, but it's a subject that's often misunderstood.

To most, it means they have to throw in their tithe each Sunday and support missions!

To many it conveys a sense of managing all their money, but the use of and giving of money is a very small part of what it means to be a steward.

God has called us to be stewards, but there are issues that we need to understand if we are going to be the stewards that God wants us to be.

1. THE ISSUE OF OWNERSHIP

Psalms 24:1

¹The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Psalms 50:10

¹⁰For every beast of the forest *is* mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills.

Haggai 2:8

⁸The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Ezekiel 18:4

⁴Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

- A steward is not an owner
- God as Creator owns everything.

- God owns our body, buildings, business, and billfold
- God owns my time, talents, treasures
- God owns the first place in our hearts
- God owns the first day of our week

2. THE ISSUE OF OBEDIENCE

Luke 6:46

⁴⁶ And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Luke 16:13

¹³ No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

If God is owner, and we are convinced of that—we had better do what He wants us to do with His stuff!

Obedience Involves:

A. Action (why call ye me Lord – and do not)

B. Attitude

Romans 6:17

¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Ephesians 6:6

⁶ Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

C. Availability – delayed obedience is disobedience

3. THE ISSUE OF OPERATION

Matthew 25:21

²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:23

²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

We were left on earth after salvation for some reason!

We have been given gifts to accomplish those jobs and desires of the Master!

If we choose to become basins instead of conduits, our lives will begin to stagnate and God will have to stop sending blessings our way and will divert them to another conduit!

Close:

As proper stewards we will find ourselves:

- Exalting the Saviour
- Edifying the Saints
- Evangelizing the Sinners
- Examples to Society

Let us resolve in our hearts today that we will begin living as stewards instead of owners!

Only then will God truly bless us individually and this church corporately!