

Stewardship

A Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church
September 6: Stewardship, Part 1

When pastors start talking about stewardship, what comes to mind?

What do we mean when we say that God sustains His creation?

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him and for him.

Psalms 50:10-12 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.

Psalms 24:1-2 The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

If God owns all things, and we are His stewards, what does our stewardship include?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

What was humanity's original purpose?

Genesis 1:27-28 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

What is the difference between responsibility and independence?

"In the doctrine of vocation, spirituality is brought down to earth to transfigure our practical, everyday life. God is graciously at work, caring for the human race through the work of other human beings." – Gene Edward Veith, *The Spirituality of the Cross*

What specifically is the Church called to steward?

1 Corinthians 4:1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Stewardship of Time

What does it mean to steward our time? What monopolizes time in our world?

Psalm 31:15 My times are in your hand.

How many hours do you have each week?

What is a tithe when it comes to money? Should we think about tithing our time?

Ephesians 5:15-16 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

What does the Mary and Martha story tell us about our priorities?

Luke 10:41-42 Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.

What is the Third Commandment?

“We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” *The Small Catechism*

What do you do to prepare for Sunday morning?

Colossians 3:2-3 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

“You shall observe the worship day, that peace may fill your home, and pray, and put aside the work you do, so that God may work in you. Have mercy, Lord.” – LSB 581