

Foundations — My Life In Christ Blessed — Unit 3

MLICB — 3.2

Stewardship

- I. **Introduction:** In Unit 3, My Life In Christ Blessed, we are discussing some fundamental ways God blesses His children, and appropriate responses to this favor. This lesson will present and develop the concept of stewardship as it applies to New Testament Christians. Simply speaking in the context of personal faith in Jesus Christ, stewardship is the management of all God has entrusted to you for His glory. A Biblical view of stewardship applies to all believers, practically encompassing all areas of living because the earth and everything in it is the Lord's. (**S-5** Matt 6:21; **S - 7-9** - Read 1Chron 29:11-14;)



S-10 “Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything what was not in a sense His own already.” C. S. Lewis.

A. **S-11** ***Everything*** belongs to God. (Psa 89:11; 1Cor 10:26; Psa 24:1)

1. **S-12** Man's first identified role was as a steward of God Gen 2:15-17 “Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ...”
2. God's principles govern and direct how man ought to carry out his responsibility. (Psa 24:1-6)

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3. S-13 As believers are taught to see ourselves as God's — 1Cor 6:18-20 "... For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's".
 - B. **S-14 A Biblical concept** — a steward is a manager of a household or of household affairs. Specifically the management, oversight or administrator of another's property and affairs. Luke 16:1-13; 1Pet 4:10
 - C. **S-15 Biblical words:** The word and concept of stewardship was commonly applied and understood in the time when the New Testament was written, as well as for millennia before then.
 1. oikonomia — the management of a household (Lk 16:2-3; 1Cor 9:17)
 2. oikonomos — the manager of a household (Luke 16:1; 1Pet 4:10)
 3. epitropos — one to whose control a thing is left (Matt 20:8)
 - D. **Merriam Webster Dictionary** — the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care
 - E. **S-16 In the Old Testament** Abraham employed a household steward, his grandson Jacob was a steward in Laban's house, and his great grandson survived an ordeal in Egypt by being a faithful steward. (Gen 24; Gen 29; Gen 39)
 - F. **S-17,18 In the New Testament** Jesus teaches His disciples about an unjust steward, and Paul refers to Himself as a steward of the mysteries of God. (Luke 16:1-13; Matt 25:23; 1Cor 4:1-2; Titus 1:7)
- II. **S-19 The Stewardship of the believer:** God gives purpose, Presence, position, power, and possessions, to people as He pleases. (Dan 4:25; Psa 24:1-6)
- A. **S-20 Critical Areas** of Life Stewardship (1Pet 4:10; Jn 15:16):
1. God's presence — 1Pet 3:15; Titus 3:5; 1Cor 6:19 (MLIC - Unit 1) John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."
 2. **S-21** The gifts and fruit of the Spirit — Rom 12:6-8; Gal 5:22-23; 1Cor 12:7-11 (MLICB 3.1) Rom 12:5 "so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."
 3. Relationships with other Christians, friends, and family: (MLICC - Unit 2)5

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- i. **S-22** Friends — Rom 13:8-10; Prov. 27:6 “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”
 - ii. Family: Parent and Child — Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20-21
 - iii. Family: Marriage — Col 3:18-19; 1Pet 3:1-7
 - iv. Church: Other believers — Jn 13:34-3 “... love one another; as I have love you ...)
 - v. Neighbors — Matt 22:37-40 “... love your neighbor as yourself ...”
4. **S-23** Possessions or money — Deut 8:18; Mal 3:8-11; 1Tim 6:7-10; 2Cor 8:3-5
 5. **S-24** Time — Eph 5:15-18
- III. **S-25 Principles of living as a good steward for God**
- A. **Lordship** — Settle the question of where your life comes from
 1. Lord — kurios — master, owner, possessor, sovereign, deity (Matt 4:7, 10; Matt 7:21-27; Phil 2:9-11)
 2. Col. 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
 - B. **S-26 Tithing** — Settle the question of your income source— Deut. 8:18 “And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, ...”
 1. **Old Testament:**
 - i. Gen 13:14 Abraham pays a tithe to Melchizedek
 - ii. Neh 13:12; Mal 3:8-10; Lev 27:30-32 Israel practiced tithing as an activity that demonstrated a belief that God was the source of their fruitfulness and wealth
 2. **S-27 New Testament:**
 - i. Matt 23:23; Lk 11:42 Jesus confirms tithing as appropriate, while challenging His followers to adopt higher standards.
 - ii. Paul identifies the fundamental heart of a giver.
 - i. 1Cor 16:1-2 — Lay something aside regularly ...;

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- ii. 2Cor 8:3-5 — The context of New Testament giving is first giving yourself to God, all under your influence becomes His to use through you.
- C. **S-28 Obedience** — Matt 7:21-27 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ...”
- D. **S-29 Offerings** — Prov. 22:9 “He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.”
 - 1. Alms — money or food given to poor people. Psa 41:1-3
 - 2. **S-30 Missions Giving** — financial support towards any evangelistic endeavor to fulfill the Great Commission, predominantly cross-cultural. (2Cor 9:10-15)
 - 3. Local Church — support for endeavors or needs not funded in the annual budget.
 - 4. Other:
 - i. community needs and activities such as the local fire department, play ground, etc...
 - ii. good causes or organizations such as Samaritan’s Purse; Love146.org; Children of the Nations; etc...