

Living Word Church  
Sunday, November 5, 2023

Stewardship: Is it really mine?  
I Corinthians 4:1-2

1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Pastor Brad spoke about a few myths concerning money and the church. Here are a few of them.

1. Church should not talk about Money
2. Money is the root of all evil.
3. Rich individuals are less spiritual and poor individuals are more spiritual.
4. All Christians should be wealthy (prosperity gospel)

**Question 1: What are some myths that you have heard about money and the church?**

Intro: Stewardship is taking care of the things **entrusted** to you by following the **instructions** given to you.

**Question 2: How does this definition of Biblical Stewardship change your perspective on money and serving God?**

## I. Our God is a God of unlimited resources.

- The Lord owns it all (Ps. 24:1)

The earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness,  
The world and those who dwell therein.

- The Lord distributes to His people (I Chronicles 29:12)

12 Both riches and honor *come* from You,  
And You reign over all.  
In Your hand *is* power and might;  
In Your hand *it is* to make great  
And to give strength to all.

- The Lord blesses those who obey Him (Proverbs 3:9-10).

Honor the LORD with your possessions,  
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;  
<sup>10</sup> So your barns will be filled with plenty,  
And your vats will overflow with new wine.

## II. Money can be a **tool** or an **idol** (Matthew 6:19-24)

### Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

22 “**The lamp of the body is the eye.** If therefore your eye is [a]good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is [b]bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else **he will be loyal to the one** and despise the other. You cannot serve God and [c]mammon.

- Materialism can enslave a person's heart, eyes, and loyalty.

- Money can be used for two reasons:
  - For personal pleasure and to prop up self-worth. (Some people feel good about themselves based off the bottom line – if the line is low, low self worth...if the bottom line is high, high self worth). Do you see how money can manipulate your emotions?
  - For blessing of others and multiplying the Kingdom of God.
- The right understanding of money is a mark of spiritual maturity (Matthew 6:31-33).
  - Do Not Worry.
  - God is your source.
  - God will supply.

### **Question 3: What makes it hard to trust God with money?**

III. A Generous God has **generous** followers (Acts 4:34-37).

- **Generosity** breaks the hold of money becoming an idol.
- Generosity is understanding that you are a **conduit** of God's blessing (Proverbs 11:24-25).
- Generosity is connected to **obeying** God (Proverbs 3:9-10)

### **Question 4: What does it mean for you to be generous?**

Promise of the Day

Lord, You are a Generous God. I want to be a faithful steward of the things you have entrusted to me. Money is a tool that you have given to me to impact the Kingdom of God. Help me to use Your resources wisely. I desire to be a cheerful and generous giver.