

Lesson 4

Some Practicalities of Stewardship

1. **Objective:** To define and consider what it means to be a generous steward (member) at Redeemer Presbyterian Church. To wrap up the class considering several resources to ponder and think through concerning the practicalities of stewardship.
2. **Some Definitions of Stewardship**
 - a. **CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes** – The Lutheran Church: Missouri Synod
 - b. **CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP is grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in light of God's purposes revealed in Jesus Christ** – Episcopal Church USA
 - c. **GENEROUS CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP is joyfully giving away in abundance our time, talents and treasures for God's glory and his Kingdom purposes in the world. It is about living generous lives in response to God's overwhelming generosity to us in Jesus** – adapted from 'Stewardship: Planting a Church with a Generous Culture' BY Tom Wood
3. **Living Generously at Redeemer**
 - a. **Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?**
 - What does this mean at Redeemer?
 - By **Being a Worshipper** yourself. The most important facet of the Christian's life is gaining a God-centered, worship-centered vision of life.
 - By **Serving** in Redeemer's ministries through **prayer, time, and talents**. There are numerous areas and plenty of needs for you to involve yourself. It is an expectation that our members will serve...
 - By **Giving** financially to the Vision of Redeemer. While the NT makes no command of the tithe, it expects each person in Christ to sacrificially contribute to the local church. The tithe of 10% of one's income is surely a great beginning point of learning the responsibility of giving. We require all elders and deacons to be committed to a principle of a minimum of 10% tithe to Redeemer.
 - By **Extending** the Vision of Redeemer. Each of us is responsible to **'Bringers'** and to seek to share Christ with our friends, neighbors, and family members. Redeemer is committed to an organic and relational approach to outreach. This means that we must self-consciously seek to invite folks to come and to tell people about what Redeemer is all about.
4. **Some Things to Consider**
 - a. **There is no set of simple 'cut and paste' rules for stewardship in the Bible.**
 - b. **The New Testament's appeal concerning stewardship is sacrificial giving, but even then it does not spell out in detail what this is to look like in every situation, rather it is an element of freedom.**
 - c. **The real concern of the Bible's practice of stewardship can be summed up in this question: How can I/my family order our lives (stewardship and economic practices) in such a way that they give testimony to Jesus and the new life he has brought about?**
 - d. **However the above question is answered it will be costly.**
5. **Resources**
 - Bible Verses on Money

- Budgeting Materials
- Keller Study
- Questions to Ponder

6. A prayer to Pray

You are the God who is simple, direct, and clear with us and for us.
You have committed yourself to us.
You have said *yes* to us in creation,
 Yes to us in our birth
 Yes to us in our conversion
 Yes to us in our awakening this day.

But we are of another kind,
 More accustomed to “perhaps, maybe, we’ll see,”
 Left in wonderment and ambiguity.

We live our lives not back to your *yes*,
 But out of our endless “perhaps.”

So we pray for your mercy this day that we may live *yes* back to you,
 yes with our time,
 yes with our money,
 yes with our bodies,
 yes with our strength and with our weakness,
 yes to our neighbor,
 yes and no longer “perhaps.”

In the name of your enfleshed *yes* to us,
 Even Jesus who is our *yes* into the future. Amen (Brueggemann, Walter. *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*, p. 91).