



Healthy Church: What Is Stewardship?



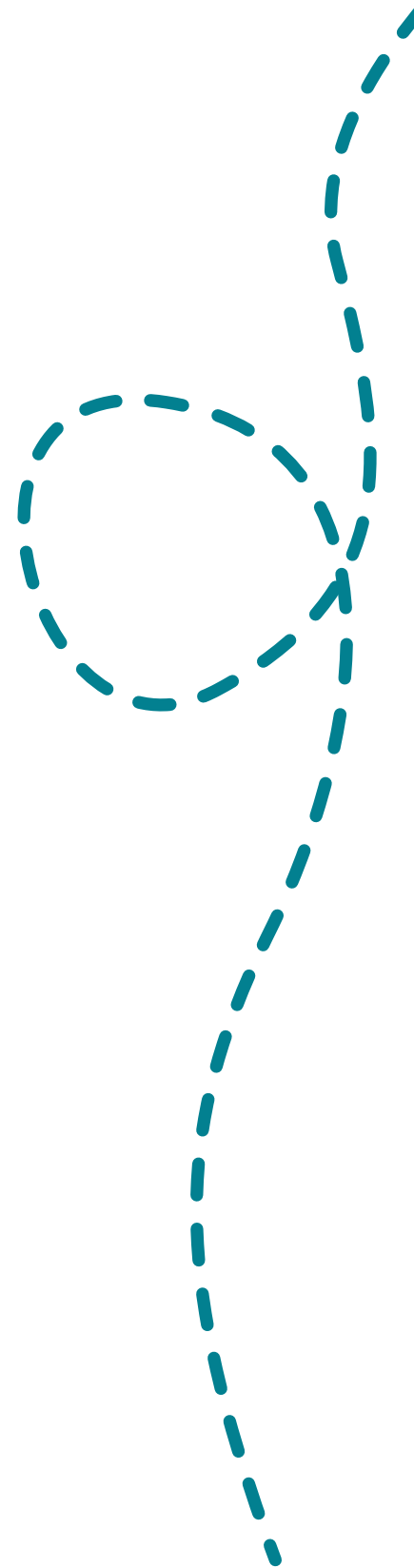
Stewardship

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Noun

Definition

Faithful management of everything God has entrusted to us — our time, energy, gifts, relationships, finances, and creation — as a response to his abundant grace.



Stewardship Is a Response to God's Generosity

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God is the source of every good thing. Our lives, relationships, resources, talents, and opportunities are all gifts from him. Stewardship isn't about obligation or guilt. **It's about gratitude.**

In gratitude, we responsibly and faithfully care for ourselves, our loved ones, and what we have been given so that we may freely and generously care for, serve, and support others.

When we understand how generous God has been toward us, our natural response is to offer ourselves back in love. Stewardship is our *"thank you"* to God, expressed in how we live, serve, give, and care for ourselves and others.

As Paul wrote: *"in view of God's mercy, ... offer your bodies as a living sacrifice"* (Romans 12:1 NIV). Our whole life becomes an offering.

The Biblical Call to Stewardship

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From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible paints a picture of stewardship rooted in relationship with God. Humanity was created in God's image and entrusted with the care of creation (**Genesis 1:28**). This original calling continues through every generation.

Jesus teaches us that we are stewards, not owners (**Luke 12:42–48**). Everything we have is a trust. We're called to be faithful and wise in how we use it. Stewardship is about living with open hands and an open heart, knowing that *"where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (**Matthew 6:21 ESV**).

Stewardship is never about earning God's favor. It's about living in alignment with his character, being generous, compassionate, and attentive to others.

Whole-Life Stewardship

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Stewardship involves every part of life, not just tithing or financial giving. God invites us to use all that we are and have for his glory and the good of others:

- **Time:** Being present with others, serving intentionally, and using each day meaningfully.
- **Talents:** Using our spiritual gifts and personal skills to bless others and build up the church.
- **Relationships:** Investing in love, listening, reconciliation, and encouragement.
- **Resources:** Practicing generosity with finances, hospitality, and possessions.
- **Creation:** Caring for the environment as stewards of God's world.

Everything belongs to God, and he invites us to participate with him as caretakers and co-workers in his mission.

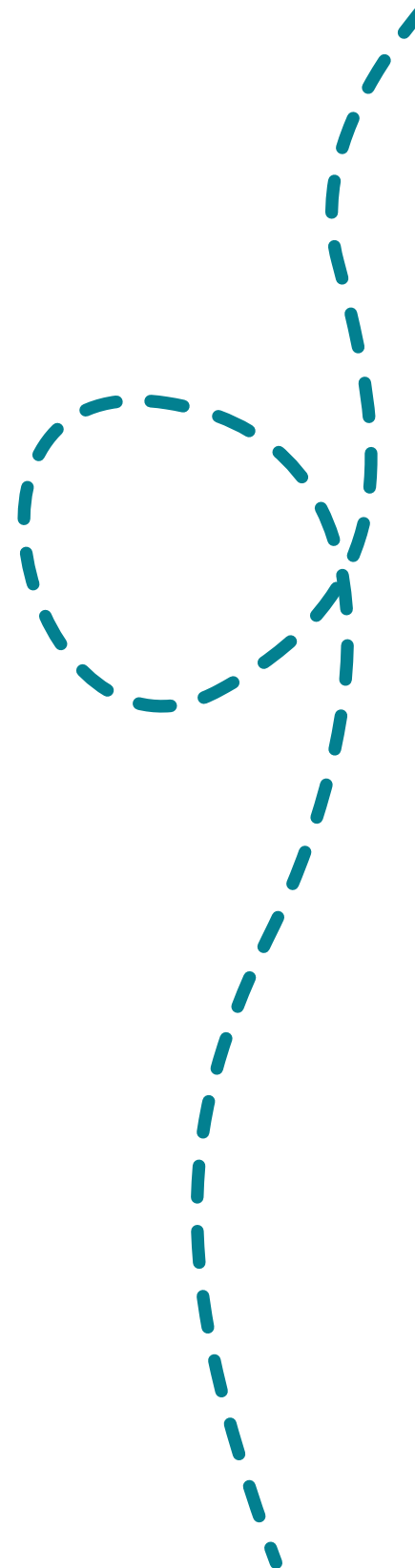
Why Stewardship Matters to the Church

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When each person in the Body offers what they have — time, talents, and treasure — the whole church thrives. Volunteers make ministry possible. Generosity sustains mission. Hospitality creates belonging.

Every role, big or small, matters.

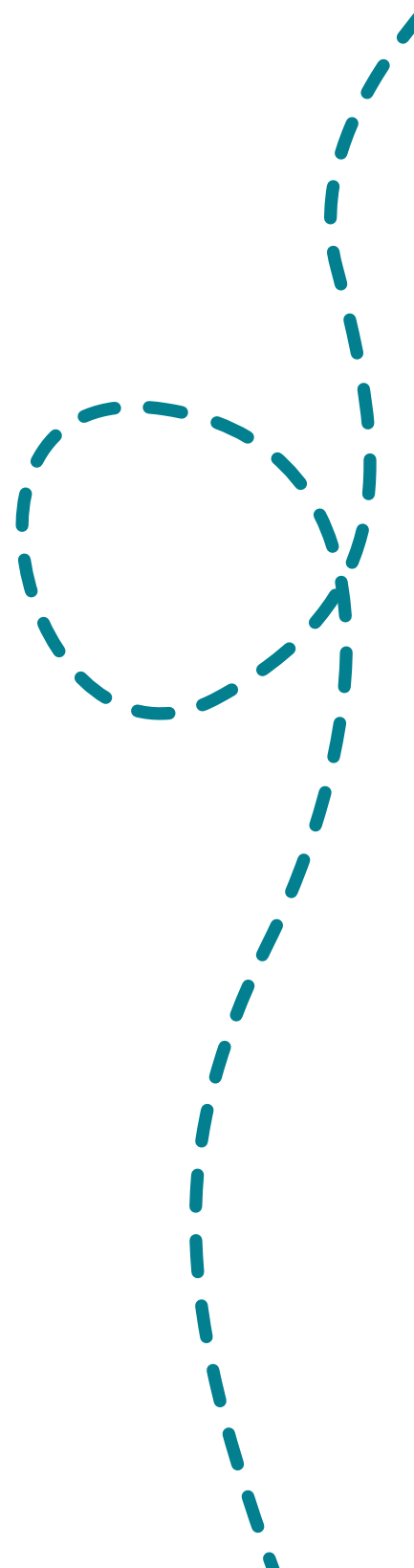
Stewardship reminds us that the church isn't a show we attend. It's a family we belong to and contribute to. God works through us, together.



The Church as a Channel, not a Container

The church is not meant to store up resources for itself. We exist to pour them out in love for the world. When we serve and give, we don't do it to "keep the lights on." We do it so the light of Christ can shine through us into our neighborhoods and relationships.

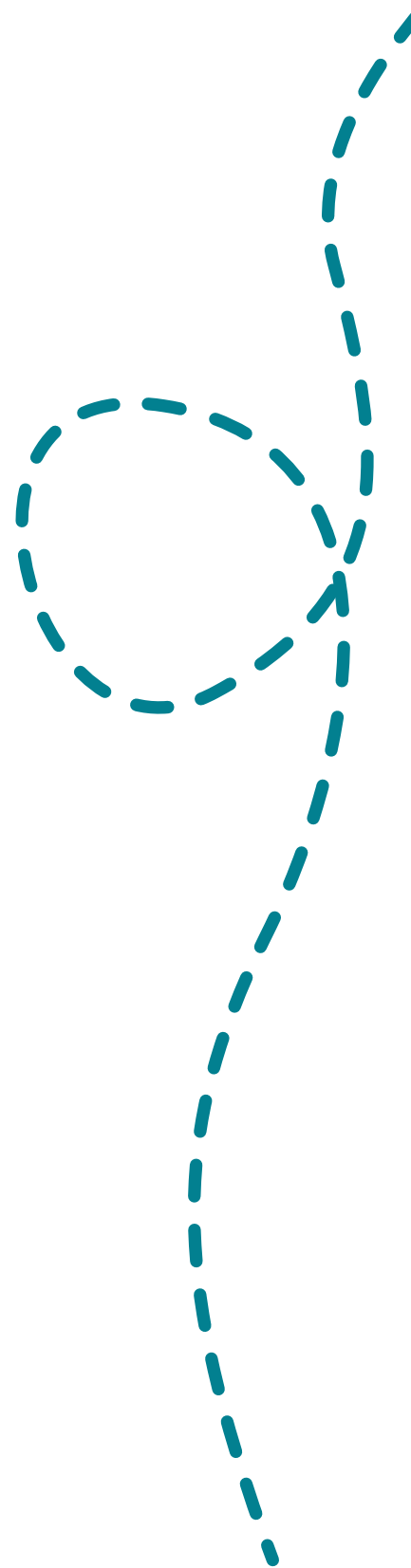
Our stewardship reflects our trust that God will provide, and our desire to be part of what he's doing around us.



Next Steps:

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- **Reflect.** What are some of the resources God has entrusted to you — time, skills, finances, experiences — that you can steward in this season?
- **Offer.** Consider volunteering in a new way or increasing your giving as a joyful act of worship.
- **Invite.** Talk with a pastor or ministry leader about how you can contribute to what God is doing in your local church.



Conclusion

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Stewardship isn't about giving something up — it's about joining in. It's about recognizing all we've received from God and living generously in response.

As we offer ourselves — our time, energy, gifts, and resources — we reflect the generous heart of our Father.

And together, we become a church that lives open-handedly, pouring out God's love to one another and the world.

More on

Stewardship Involves All of Life - Grace Communion International

Whole Life Stewardship - Grace Communion International