

# Christian Stewardship

1 Cor 4:1-2

## Introduction:

- A. A steward was a servant that had his master's estate entrusted to him to manage.
  - 1. He had full use and control of the estate as manager, but not as owner.
  - 2. He usually was rewarded according to how wisely he managed the estate.
  - 3. He had to remember that what was in his possession was not his own.
- B. As Christians, we are given several stewardships of things that really belong to God.
  - 1. It is required that we faithfully manage these possessions (v. 2)
  - 2. It is required that we use them according to His will and not ours – they are his, not ours.

## Discussion:

### **I. The Stewardship of the Gospel (1 Cor. 4:1)**

- A. The “mystery” here is “hidden wisdom” of God (cf. ch. 2:7).
  - 1. The thoughts, plans, etc. of God hidden from human wisdom.
  - 2. The hidden wisdom is revealed through the gospel revelation.
- B. We are but the stewards of that revelation – not the owners.
  - 1. We must faithfully dispense it according to God's will (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).
  - 2. We must faithfully defend it (Phil. 1:7, 17; Gal. 2:5).
  - 3. We must faithfully guard its purity (Gal. 1:6-10)

### **II. The Stewardship of Our Goods.**

- A. There is a sense in which our goods are our own. (cf. Acts 5:4).
- B. There is another sense in which all things belong to God (1 Cor. 10:26,28).
- C. The Christian maintains possession (as a steward), but the title belongs to God (Luke 14:33)
  - 1. As a steward, he must not waste the Lord's goods (cf. Luke 16:1)
  - 2. As a steward, he must use it wisely (Parable of the talents).

### **III. The Stewardship of Our Bodies (1 Cor. 6:19-20)**

- A. “It my body, I can do with it what I want to” – not if you are a Christian!
  - 1. Our bodies belong to God.
  - 2. We are just stewards or caretakers of it.
- B. The Christian must treat his body with respect – it does not belong to him.
  - 1. It is the temple (dwelling place) of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19).
  - 2. It is presented as a living sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1).
  - 3. It must not be used for sin (1 Cor. 6:13-18; Rom. 6:13)
  - 4. It must not be neglected or abused (Col 2:23 - see asv).
- C. Should one wilfully do anything to weaken or destroy the body?

### **IV. The Stewardship of Our Spirits (1 Cor 6:19-20)**

- A. We must feed our spirits with spiritual food (1 Cor. 10:3 NKJ cf. 1 Pet. 2:2)
- B. We must facilitate spiritual growth and development (cf. 2 Pet. 3:18).
- C. We must facilitate its ultimate salvation (Heb. 10:38, 39).

## Conclusion:

- A. What kind of steward are you?
- B. Why not become a servant or steward of God by obeying the gospel today.
- C. If you have become an unfaithful steward, why not return.