



I. Christian stewardship defined

LCMS definition:

“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.”

II. Three “T’s” Time, talent, treasure

Two more “T’s” Time, talent, treasure, temple and testimony

Two more “T’s” Time, talent, treasure, temple, testimony and trash and technology

III. Christian stewardship isn’t just a definition, a process or a job assignment, but a way of life as a disciple of Christ. It is managing every gift God has given us – spiritual life, bodies, minds, intellect, emotions, relationships, and possessions to His glory. Hand out and discuss (Wholeness Wheel).

We need to find new ways to educate our congregations on whole life stewardship. Radical stewardship. Like God has modeled for us by sending His Son, an obedient servant to His Father unto death. But it is more than finding good resources. It is discovering what and who we are as believers, disciples, stewards and children of God.

Polls taken across our country have demonstrated that evangelical Christians are as likely to embrace lifestyles every bit as materialistic, hedonistic, self-centered and immoral as the culture in the US.

Christians have individualized their lives, while God calls us into a community of believers.

Christians have compartmentalized their lives, while God calls us to discipleship in all areas of life.

Christians have made a tragic mistake in equating stewardship to only money issues. When this happens, the life-changing nature of Christian stewardship is lost.

Christians have an increasingly difficult time discerning the difference between what God’s Word says and what the culture tells them.

IV. Assessment & discussion (my congregation) – what does my church look like?

V. So...what should we be doing personally and congregationally to grow in whole life stewardship?

1. Understand who we are as children of the Father and as disciples of Christ.
2. Understand that stewardship is a part of discipleship, and it is about our whole life.
3. Understand what whole life stewardship is. Not just the money focus.
4. Understand our responsibility to practice good stewardship and help others to do so.
5. Understanding what the stewardship culture is in the congregation.
6. Set goals as they relate to accomplishing kingdom work in the church, not just numbers.
7. Put a plan in place at your congregation to educate people in year long, whole-life stewardship.
8. Execute the plan year in and year out.

VI. What and how do you start to educate yourself and others?

FaithAflame primer – understanding

Living Abundantly – 12 part study for stewardship committees

VII. Our goal?

1. Be faithful to God's Word.
2. Be fruitful: live generously in the areas of compassion, service, mission, forgiveness, hospitality, sacrifice and rest, and encourage others to do the same.
3. By way of 1 & 2, be good stewards of the gifts and blessings God has given to you.

Resource list

1. <http://www.lcms.org/stewardship-ministry> This LCMS site has "A to Z" resources for pastors and stewardship committees, including theological and practical information for committees.
2. [faithaflame.lcms.org/](http://faithaflame.lcms.org/) A congregational process designed to change the stewardship culture.
3. <http://www.csl.edu/resources/academics/center-for-stewardship/> Center for Stewardship at Concordia St Louis Seminary. The Center for Stewardship is involved in forming healthy stewards and establishing a healthy stewardship culture in congregations. Biblical stewardship resources and stewardship events are provided to teach, train, support, and encourage leaders in examining their own lives as God's stewards and in leading congregations in intentional and comprehensive biblical stewardship education. "Living Abundantly" is a resource for Stewardship Committees to read, discuss and help them begin the transformation to a stewardship culture in the congregations.