


Stewardship: A Life Devoted to Serving God

Session 2: Stewardship of our
Personal Holiness

Stewardship of Personal Holiness

1 Peter 1:15-16

but as He who called you [is] holy, you also be holy in all [your] conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Holiness means to be set apart for God's uses

Stewardship of Personal Holiness

- Fearing God
 - Obeying God
 - Loving God
 - Being a Disciple of God
 - Being a Disciple Maker
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- Prayer
- Loving One Another
- Thought Life

Stewardship of Personal Holiness

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

"Now this [is] the commandment, [and these are] the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe [them] in the land which you are crossing over to possess, "that you may ***fear the LORD your God***, to ***keep all His statutes and His commandments*** which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. "Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe [it], that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you--'a land flowing with milk and honey.' "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD [is] one! "***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*** "And these words which I command you today ***shall be in your heart.*** "You ***shall teach them diligently to your children***, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Stewardship of Personal Holiness

- Fearing God - *"that you may fear the LORD your God,"*
 - To see Him as the mighty and just God, creator and ruler of all; above all, apart from all, unlike all. Sustainer of life and ultimate judge.
- Obeying God – *"to keep all His statutes and His commandments"*
 - Learning to be good stewards and walking in what He has called us to do.

Stewardship of Personal Holiness

- Loving God - *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."*
 - *Revelation 2:1-4*
 - First Love: Protos agape – ranks above all
 - Loving God more than we love ourselves, others, and things
- Being a Disciple of God *"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates"*
 - Having these things written on our hearts, minds and hands (loving with heart, mind and strength)
- Being a Disciple Maker *"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."*
 - Looking on our children, and spiritual children, as part of our stewardship to God – and teaching them faithfully of all that God is

Stewardship of Personal Holiness

Prayer

- Including God in our everyday thoughts, actions, plans
- We cannot be good stewards if we do not know the heart or instructions of our master.
- Prayer is communication; prayer is listening and responding
 - prayer is fostering our relationship with God
- The disciple's prayer (Matt 6:9-13) provides us with the what we need to make the priorities of heaven our priorities. :
 - We focus on God's name, God's will, God's kingdom.
 - Ask for daily bread, forgiveness of sin, and freedom from evil and temptation.
 - As disciples and stewards we can do no better than joining our risen Lord in offering our prayers to our Father

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Prayer

- It is your obligation as a steward to teach those in your care and lead them in prayer wherever they are.
 - That includes your family and your church family. They are in your care.
 - Are you praying for them?
 - Are you leading each other in prayer?

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Obligation of Prayer

- Hebrews 5:6-7 – Jesus as the example
- Mark 11:17 "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'?"
- Isaiah 55:6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near

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Qualities of Prayer

- *Ephesians 6:18* **praying always with all prayer** and supplication **in the Spirit, being watchful** to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
- *Romans 12:12* rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing **steadfastly** in prayer;
- *Philippians 1:3-4* I thank my God upon **every remembrance** of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all **with joy**,
- *Colossians 4:2* Continue **earnestly** in prayer, being **vigilant** in it with thanksgiving;

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Qualities of Prayer

- *Mark 11:24-26 ...And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, **forgive** him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses...*
- *Philippians 4:6-7 **Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
 - with faith
- *1John 5:14-15 Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

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Needs for Prayer

- Personal Needs and Personal Peace - *Philippians 4:6-7* *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by **prayer and supplication**, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.***
- Concerning right judgment regarding problems in the church:
Matthew 18:19-20 *"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*

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Needs for Prayer

- Our Leaders - 1 Timothy 2:1-2 *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks be made for **all men, for kings and all who are in authority**, that we may **lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.***
- For those sick and in sin - James 5:13-16 *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And **the prayer of faith** will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess [your] trespasses to one another, and **pray for one another, that you may be healed.** The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

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Stewards of the Gift of Prayer

- Are you being a faithful steward of this gift of prayer?
 - Are you maintaining your own prayer relationship with the Lord?
 - Are you praying for and with your congregation?
 - Are you teaching them to pray by your example?

Stewardship of Personal Holiness

Loving One Another

- Stewardship of one another through the use of our gifts (1Cor 12:4-7, 12, 25-27)
 - *[4-7 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit [of all]:*
 - *... 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also [is] Christ.*
 - *... 25-27 that there should be no schism in the body, but [that] the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with [it]; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with [it]. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*

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Loving One Another

- 1 Corinthians 13 – As God has given us love, as His stewards we are to show that same love toward others in the body of Christ.
- *1 Peter 4:8-10 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." [Be] hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift (charisma), minister it to one another, as **good stewards of the manifold grace of God.***
- Preventing from stumbling
 - *Eph 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy** of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, **bearing with one another in love**, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Stewardship of Personal Holiness

Setting Watch Over How We Think and Feel

- *Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it [spring] the issues of life.*
- *2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal but mighty in God for*
 - *pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and*
 - *every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,*
 - *bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

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Setting Watch Over How We Think and Feel

- *Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
- *Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things [are] noble, whatever things [are] just, whatever things [are] pure, whatever things [are] lovely, whatever things [are] of good report, if [there is] any virtue and if [there is] anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.*

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Setting Watch Over How We Think and Feel

Examples Shown by Jesus

- *Luke 4:1-13*
 - Refused to take the bait
 - Combated with the Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God
- *Matthew 26:36-44*
 - Refused to give in to His own desires
 - Combated with prayer

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Setting Watch Over How We Think and Feel

Since God has given us a mind, and calls us to be stewards, loving and serving Him with it, are we protecting our mind, our thoughts?

Stewardship of Personal Holiness

What to Consider as Stewards Set Apart for God

- Fearing God
- Obeying God
- Loving God
- Being a Disciple of God
- Discipling others
- Prayer
- Loving One Another
- Setting Watch Over How We Think and Feel