



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN **STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY**



The Difference Between Stewardship and Generosity

Definition of Terms

- Stewardship - An act of managing wisely what belongs to God in a way that pleases Him.
- Generosity - A willingness to share with others that involves personal sacrifice.
- Giving - releasing something you have in your possession for others to use.

What is the difference between stewardship and generosity?

- We'll examine these separately and then discuss why they are important to understand, practice, and teach in our churches.

What Does the Bible Say About Generosity and Giving?

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV): "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Generosity brings blessings, both for the giver and the recipient.

Acts 20:35 (NIV): "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

These words attributed to Jesus highlight the blessedness and inherent goodness of giving rather than receiving.

Luke 6:38 (NIV): "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

This verse encourages giving to others and ensures that when we do, we can expect to receive abundantly in return.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV): "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

This passage emphasizes the importance of giving willingly, without coercion, and with a joyful heart.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV): "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

This passage encourages those with wealth to be generous and willing to share, recognizing that true life and fulfillment come from being rich in good deeds.

Generosity and Giving are related but different

- Giving
 - Ex: Leo - Giving my Honda Accord to a friend.
- Generosity requires sacrifice.
 - Ex: Giving your only car away or a newer/better car while you keep the old.

Giving is about action, it's something you do. Generosity is an attitude.

What does the Bible say about Stewardship?

Proverbs 27:23-24 "Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure to all generations"

Timothy 5:8 "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Deuteronomy 25:13-15 "You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a large and a small. You shall not have in your house two kinds of measures, a large and a small. A full and fair weight you shall have, a full and fair measure you shall have, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." Honesty & Integrity.

Proverbs 13:11 "Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it." - Saving and Investing - Matt 25

Stewardship is the act of managing wisely what belongs to God

Stewardship is...

- **Taking care of what you have** - remember it isn't yours
 - Do you want to know how your son/daughter will care for their car? Look at how they care for their toys and how they keep their room.
- **Making responsible decisions while keeping the future in mind**
 - Not living for today only - avoiding greed or gluttony
 - Practicing delayed gratification for future well-being and security
 - **Proverb 6:6-8** "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.
- **Being able to give an account for your stewardship** - How you spend your money.
 - **Revelation 20:12** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.



Stewardship matters because it is a direct reflection of our values and our attitude regarding our stuff.

A biblical example of stewardship and generosity

The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

- Had the compassion to help
- Had the resources to help

- Had a good reputation and was trusted

The Parable of the Talents - Matthew 25:14-30

- Each was entrusted with a portion to manage
- Two servants were faithful and increased the sum
- One servant was cast out and called “wicked and lazy” for not increasing his portion

How do we equip God’s people to be like the Good Samaritan and Faithful Stewards?

- **Stewardship must be taught** (preach and teach)
 - Biblical financial education is sorely lacking in the Church
 - The lack of Biblical wisdom has caused materialism and living beyond the paycheck to become normal in our culture.
 - Debt and financial bondage are a real struggle for many Christian families.
 - Financially free people not only have more capacity to give, but they are also more likely to do so when they embrace their role as stewards - good stewardship leads to greater generosity.
- **Generosity and giving must be encouraged**
 - Overcomes greed and selfishness in our lives
 - Brings God’s blessing, favor, and protection - Malchi 3
 - More Fruitfulness - Philippians 4:17 “Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.”

The role of Church leadership - “How to”

- **Senior Pastor** - Preach on generosity, giving, and stewardship
 - 2 to 3 times per year, or one to two series yearly.
 - Do it often because it’s something people deal with every day.
 - Challenge - Preach on stewardship without mentioning giving because principles bring conviction and transformation. This leads to better stewardship and more fruitfulness (generosity).
- **Staff and Volunteers** - Teach biblical stewardship, generosity, and practical ways to live it out.
 - Groups curriculum - FreedUp, Compass- Navigating Your Finances God’s Way, Financial Hope by Michael Blue (Ron Blue Institute), and Financial Peace University (FPU)
 - Classes - Series or single topical (debt, saving, investing, budgeting)
 - One-on-one coaching for those who need support through the journey

Conclusion

- Stewardship without generosity is disobedient selfishness. Generosity without stewardship is unwise recklessness. - Dave Briggs.
- Generosity doesn't lead to good stewardship, but with good stewardship, the potential for generosity increases.
- Stewardship, generosity, and giving are all important subjects to teach as part of the discipleship of God's people.
- Church leaders have a responsibility to preach, teach, and model good stewardship and generosity.