

STEWARDSHIP

1Cor 4:1-6

Purpose: to show what is involved in stewardship

INTRODUCTION

- A. Steward: the manager of a household or estate
- B. We are to be good stewards of the manifold grace of God
1Pet 4:10
- C. As stewards of God's house, we must know what is expected of us

DISCUSSION:

I. STEWARDSHIP IMPLIES OWNERSHIP

- A. We are God's by creation Gen 1:26
- B. By right of redemption Jhn 3:16; Rom 5:8,9
- C. By providential provisions for us
 - 1. Gave us rain, fruitful seasons Acts 14:17
 - 2. Gives all life and breath, have our being in him
Acts 17:25-28
 - 3. God will furnish things we need Matt 6:26-30
- D. We are bought with a price 1Cor 6:19,20
- E. Incidental to this idea is the relationship of child to parent. i.e. as long as parent is providing for the child, the child owes submission.

II. STEWARDS ARE INTRUSTED WITH ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR SERVICE TO THE MASTER

- A. Time
 - 1. God gave everything Job 1:21
 - 2. Now is the only time we have Jas 4:13,14
- B. Abilities
 - 1. Power to get wealth comes from God Deut 8:18
 - 2. Talents (opportunities) given by Master Matt

25:14,15

- C. Resources
 - 1. Brought nothing here 1Tim 6:7
 - 2. Parable of rich fool Lk 12:16-20

III. STEWARDSHIP INVOLVES:

- A. Faithfulness
 - 1. Required to be faithful 1Cor 4:2
 - 2. Commended for being faithful Matt 25:23
- B. Taking of orders
 - 1. God always expected obedience Deut 10:12,13
Deut 11:26-28
 - 2. Must do the will of God Matt 7:21-23

- C. The priority of God's claims upon us over our obligations to family, friends, and state

- 1. Must not love family more than God Matt 10:37-39
- 2. James and John left all and followed Christ
Lk 5:10,11
- 3. Ought to obey God rather than men (Government)
Acts 4:18-20; 5:29

CONCLUSION

- A. We then as stewards of God must take seriously our responsibility to him in fulfilling his wishes
- B. Only faithful steward rewarded Matt 25:23; Rev 2:10
- C. Only those obedient to the Gospel can be stewards of God
Rom 6:17,18