

Stewardship Conversion: A Theology of Stewardship

Stewardship as Theological Task and Pastoral Care

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Participants will:

- a. see stewardship as a theological task
- b. grow in the understanding for the need to teach stewardship
- c. see that stewardship is a spiritual matter for pastoral care
- d. view the Gospel as the key to solving our stewardship crisis
- E. commit to change a pragmatic view of stewardship to a practical theology/pastoral theology view

Stewardship must be taught, it will not happen by accident, it goes against our human nature: *“It is not easy to be religious in a culture that encourages individualism and materialism at the same time. Little children are by nature selfish, they want what they want. They must be taught to be generous and to think about the needs of others. But many parents do not do that. They don't have time. They are too busy getting stuff for themselves. Thus, the urchins grow up to be selfish and insensitive... [The Christian] message has been largely lost because it's not a moneymaker.”* (Losing Our Religion, BillOReilly.com)

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 recourses for God’s purposes.

WHY STEWARDSHIP?

<p>A. Humans were created for this!</p> <p>a. Genesis 1:26-28: “...So God created man in his own image... And God blessed them. And God said to them: ... have dominion...over every living thing that moves on the earth.”</p> <p>b. Genesis 2:15: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”</p> <p>Stewardship is designed to be a joyful labour.</p>	<p>Der Mensch wird als Haushalter/Verwalter geschaffen!</p> <p>a. 1 Mose 1,26-28: „...Gott schuf den Menschen zu seinem Bilde „ Und Gott segnete sie und sprach zu ihnen: ... herrschet... über alles Getier...“</p> <p>b. 1 Mose 2,15: „Und Gott der HERR nahm den Menschen und setzte ihn in den Garten Eden; dass er ihn bebaute und bewahrte.“</p>
<p>B. The First Stewardship Crisis – The Fall (Genesis 3)</p> <p>a. Theft – trying to claim for humanity that which was not theirs</p> <p>b. Lasting Consequences - All labor becomes hard!</p>	<p>Die erste Haushalterschafts' Krise – Der Sündenfall (1 Mose 3)</p> <p>a. Diebstahl – Der Versuch, für die Menschheit das zu beanspruchen, was ihnen nicht gehört</p> <p>b. Dauerhafte Folgen - Alle Arbeit wird hart!</p>
<p>C. The Stewardship Solution</p> <p>a. The Gospel! - Restores the CHRISTIAN steward.</p>	<p>Haushalterschaft - Lösung:</p> <p>a. Das Evangelium! – Der Haushalter/Verwalter wird erneuert!</p>

<p>b. Makes Stewardship Free (No compulsion & No manipulation) and Joyous (Life of worship – Romans 12:1 & Life of thanksgiving)</p> <p>c. 2 Corinthians 5: 18-19: “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...”</p> <p>d. Romans 12:1: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship...”</p>	<p>b. Macht die Verwaltung frei (kein Zwang und keine Manipulation) und freudig (Leben der Anbetung – Römer 12,1 & Leben der Danksagung)</p> <p>c. 2. Korinther 5,18-19: „Aber das alles ist von Gott, der uns mit sich selber versöhnt hat durch Christus und uns das Amt gegeben, das die Versöhnung predigt...”</p> <p>d. Römer 12,1: „Ich ermahne euch nun, Brüder und Schwestern, durch die Barmherzigkeit Gottes, dass ihr euren Leib hingebt als ein Opfer, das lebendig, heilig und Gott wohlgefällig sei...”</p>
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Stewardship is a Theological Task

<p>Stewardship is the THIRD ARTICLE RESPONSE (<u>We are sanctified!</u>) to the SECOND ARTICLE’s redefinitions of who we are in relationship to God (<u>We are redeemed!</u>) using FIRST ARTICLE gifts (<u>He richly provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.</u>)</p>	<p>Haushalterschaft ist die ANTWORT DES DRITTEN ARTIKELS (<u>Wir sind geheiligt!</u>) Auf die Neudefinitionen des ZWEITEN ARTIKELS, wer wir in Beziehung zu Gott sind (<u>Wir sind erlöst</u>) durch die Verwendung der Geschenke des ERSTEN ARTIKELS (<u>Mit aller Notdurft und Nahrung des Leibes und Lebens mich reichlich und täglich versorget!</u>)</p>
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Stewardship is NOT a program

- No paint by numbers system will cause good stewardship in your congregation or even individuals in your congregation.

Stewardship is Taught

- Daily baptismal renewal
- A call to repentance (**The primary force of Stewardship**)
- Return to our Biblical and Confessional foundations
 - Faithful preaching and teaching
 - Proper distinction of Law and Gospel

All we do as faithful stewards flows from what we have been made in Christ.