

I. What is a Steward and What is Stewardship?

1. The concept of a steward is seen early on in the Bible.
 - a. Joseph's house had a steward ([Gen. 43:19](#)).
 - b. Three Hebrew words are below the English word "steward" which will help us to define what a steward is.
 - i. *is* (H376 noun) means "man."
 - ii. *aser* (H834 conjunction) means "who."
 - iii. *al* (H5921 preposition) means "over."
 - c. Stringing these three words together a steward then is "a man who *is* over."
 - d. Followed with the immediate context, the meaning of steward is "a man who *is* over another man's house."
2. In the New Testament the term most often translated as steward (*oikonomos* G3623 noun) is defined as follows by various Greek lexicons:
 - a. the manager of a household or of household affairs; esp. a steward, manager, superintendent (Thayer 440).
 - b. primarily denoted "the manager of a household or estate" (*oikos*, "a house," *nemo*, "to arrange"), "a steward" (such were usually slaves or freedmen) (Vine vol. 2 p. 599).
 - c. one who is entrusted with management in connection with transcendent matters, administrator (BDAG 698).
3. Generally speaking, a steward is responsible for taking care of someone else's property.
 - a. Since God owns everything, then anything we seem to have is actually a stewardship.
4. Stewardship is defined as "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something *especially*: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care" (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary).
 - a. This is seen with the Greek term *oikonomia* (G3622 noun) as found in [Luke 16:2-4](#).
 - b. Paul used this terminology for God entrusting Him with the gospel ([1 Cor. 9:17](#) ASV).

II. Some Areas We Are to Be Good Stewards In

1. We are to be good stewards of our spirits ([Heb. 12:9](#)).
 - a. All spirits originated with God and each of us has a spirit ([1 Cor. 2:11](#)).

- b. The spirit will go back to God ([Ecc. 12:7](#)).
- c. We must take care of our inner person ([Rm. 12:2](#); cf. [Eph. 3:16-19](#)).
2. We are to be good stewards of our physical bodies ([1 Cor. 6:20](#)).
 - a. God created the human body ([Gen. 2:7](#); cf. [1 Th. 5:23](#)).
 - b. It is a **temporary** dwelling place just like a tabernacle or tent ([2 Pt. 1:12-15](#); cf. [2 Cor. 5:1](#)).
 - c. We must use our bodies to bring glory to God ([1 Cor. 6:20](#); cf. [1 Cor. 10:31](#); [Ps. 115:1](#)).
3. We are to be good stewards of our senses ([Pr. 20:12](#)).
 - a. We must ensure we are listening to and seeing good things ([Ps. 101:3](#); [Job 31:1](#); [Pr. 15:31](#), [25:12](#)).
4. We are to be good stewards of our speech ([Ps. 34:13](#); cf. [Mt. 12:36-37](#)).
 - a. No corrupt speech is to be used but gracious and edifying speech ([Eph. 4:29](#); [Col. 4:6](#)).
5. We are to be good stewards of our finances ([Dt. 8:18](#)).
 - a. God deserves to be honored with what He has given us ([Pr. 3:9-10](#)).
6. We are to be good stewards of the gospel ([1 Pt. 4:10](#) with [Ac. 20:32](#)).
 - a. We must share it with others ([Mt. 28:19-20](#); [Mk. 16:15-16](#)).

III. Some Requirements for Being a Good Steward

1. A good steward must be faithful ([1 Cor. 4:2](#)).
 - a. This includes those things that are least and those things that are much ([Lk. 16:10](#)).
2. A good steward must be intentional ([Lk. 16:1-2](#)).
 - a. he had wasted (*diaskorpizo* G1287 verb, active) of property, to squander, waste (Thayer 141).
 - b. The Lord does not waste and neither should we ([Jn. 6:12](#); cf. [Mt. 15:37](#)).
3. A good steward must be single-minded ([Lk. 16:13](#)).
 - a. servant (*oiketes* G3610 noun) lit. ‘member of the household,’ then specif. house slave, domestic, and slave (BDAG 694).
 - b. We are either God’s steward or we are not just like we are either a member of God’s family or we are not ([1 Tim. 3:15](#)).
 - c. Remember, God bought us therefore He owns us ([Ac. 20:28](#); [1 Cor. 6:20](#)).