

Pledging to Give in Stewardship

Article #2

We continue to consider

- **Pledging**—“promising”
- **to give**—“to transfer for free”
- **in stewardship**—“as one who is those managing the owner’s wealth.”

God has given us clear guidelines which we may choose to apply with His help. Here is a two-part, Bible-based study that reviews some of the key standards of God.

Part I. Know Christ and Walk in His Love. Giving is based on *knowing Christ, and abiding in His love.*

- John 3:16, “For God so loved . . .”
- 1 John 4:7-21, “Beloved, let us love one another . . .”
- Ephesians 3:14-19 “For this reason I bow my knees . . .”
- Ephesians 5:1-2 “Therefore, . . . walk in love . . .”
- Mark 12: 29-31 “Love God . . . and your neighbor . . .”
- John 13:34-35 “. . . love as I have loved you”
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 “. . . the greatest of these is love”

Giving is one discipline (“training regimen”) of God’s Kingdom (Mt 6: 1-4) that “...you may become partakers of the divine nature...” (2 Peter 1:4) When we give as God says, we are by grace practicing an action (“giving”) that God consistently practices by nature.

Part II. We are Stewards who will Render an Account. Christian giving is only possible in the context of our knowing we are, and behaving as, faithful stewards of God gifts.

- *Give as a faithful steward.* All we have is God's, entrusted to us. Genesis 1:26-27, Matthew 25:14-46, Luke 12:42
- *Motives* for giving are love, and humility. Matthew 6:1-4, 21, 24; 1 John 4:17-5:3.
- *Methods* of giving are tithes & offerings. Malachi 3:6-12; Matthew 23: 23; Luke 21: 1-4)
- *Results* of giving are thanks, and blessings. Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35, 2 Corinthians 8-9.

Jesus told us, "If you love me, obey my commandments" (John 14:15). He who gave all for us, wants us to know the joy of trusting Him, and giving.

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