

Sample Definitions of Stewardship



“Stewardship is what we do after we say we believe.”

– Clarence Stoughton

“Stewardship is God’s grace working God’s purpose out in the world, in, with and through us, who, in grateful response to God and through faith in Jesus Christ, enter into a covenant relationship with the empowering Spirit of God that blesses all of creation.”

– Rhodes Thompson



“Christian stewardship has come to mean ‘what we do with what we have, all the time’.”

– John H. MacNaughton

“Stewardship is the re-enactment of Christ’s life in Christ’s people.”

– T. A. Kantonen



“Stewardship is partnership with Christ, through the Holy Spirit, in fulfilling the purposes of God in the world.”
– A.C. Conrad

“Stewardship is the management of life and all its resources for God and for the good of all.”



– Robert Hastings

W. H. Greever has indicated that the same things may be said about financial stewardship as may be said about Christianity in general:

the *motive* is love and gratitude...

the *purpose* is to glorify God...

the *guide* is the revealed will of God...

the *measure* is the sacrificial spirit of Christ...

the *efficiency* is the power of God's grace...

the *reward* is a good conscience and the anticipated

'well done' of the Lord.

– from *Realities in the Christian Religion* (private printing, 1951)



“All the difference in the world exists between those who recognize and willingly accept their stewardship, realizing the

gracious and bountiful and loving gifts of God, and those who set out with the attitude of putting a fence around as much of the universe as possible and saying, ‘This is mine.’ It isn’t. And nothing we do can make it so.”

– Turner N. Clinard, *Responding to God: The Life of stewardship* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1980), p. 14.

“Generosity with gifts is the way to spiritual maturity. Sacred and secular history and literature are replete with examples of the crippling effects of gifts hoarded and unshared. People are not naturally disposed to giving, yet, the life we all prize, filled with joy and spiritual depth, is closely tied to giving generously and with thankful hearts.”

– Donald W. Hinze, *To Give and Give Again: A Christian Imperative for Generosity* (New York: Pilgrim Press, 1990), p. ix.