

## “Spiritual Discipline 6 - Stewardship ”

In Reformed theology, stewardship is understood as the responsible management of all the resources that God has entrusted to believers. This includes time, talents, money, and the environment. Stewardship is not merely a duty but a response to the gospel—recognizing that God is the ultimate owner of everything and that humans are called to care for and manage these gifts in a way that honors Him.

### 1. Theological Foundation: God is the Owner of Everything

At the heart of biblical stewardship is the understanding that God owns everything. Believers are simply stewards, or caretakers, of the resources He provides.

- **Psalm 24:1:** "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."
- **1 Corinthians 10:26:** "For, 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.'" This verse reinforces the idea that God is the ultimate owner of all things, and believers are entrusted with His creation to manage according to His will.

### 2. Stewardship as a Call to Faithfulness

Stewardship is not about accumulating wealth or resources for personal gain but about managing God's gifts faithfully. Jesus taught that faithfulness in small things is indicative of one's readiness to handle greater responsibilities in God's kingdom.

- **Matthew 25:21** (Parable of the Talents): "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"
- **Luke 16:10:** "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

Faithful stewardship involves using what we have to serve God's purposes. Whether we have much or little, it's our faithfulness that matters.

### 3. Stewardship as an Expression of Gratitude

Reformed theology emphasizes that stewardship is rooted in gratitude for the salvation believers have received through Christ. This gratefulness compels believers to honor God with their resources.

- **Romans 12:1:** "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."
- **2 Corinthians 9:7:** "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Stewardship in this context is seen not just in terms of material resources but in offering one's entire life to God in service and worship.

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# HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, March 12

Supper, Study and Prayer

Supper @ 6pm

ASH WEDNESDAY SVC @ 7pm

Thursday, March 13

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 16

Worship Team Run Through  
@ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 19

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6pm  
Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 20

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

## Helping Hands for

**MARCH 16, 2024**

ProPresenter

**Elizabeth Floyd**

Soundboard

**Jane Davis**

Live Streaming

**Al Floyd**

Communion

**Elizabeth Floyd**

**Greeter**

**Diane Mack**

## Scripture Text and Sermon

**This Coming Sunday**

**Spiritual Disciplines for the**

**Christian Life:**

**“Fasting”**

**Matthew 4:4**

**Matthew 6:16**

## Prophecies O.T.

Revealed....

N.T.

Mar 9 John 5:45-47

Mar 10 Deut 18:18

Mar 11 John 8:28-29

Mar 12 Deut 18:19

Mar 13 Acts 3:22-23

Mar 14 Deut 21:23

## GROW

**Women of HOPE**

**Saturdays at 10a.m. at HOPE**

**3/22/25**

**Time Management: How Do You  
Do It ALL**

## **Wednesday Night**

**Supper, Study, and Prayer**

Supper at 6:00 p.m.

**Email Attendance to Bill Joyner**

Donations appreciated.

Study at 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time at 7:45 p.m.

*For those who cannot join us in  
person, a Zoom Link will be provided*

## **“Food of the Month”**

for the Raleigh Dream Center

Food Pantry

**Boxed Cereal**

We have a collection bin in the foyer

## **HOPE Meal Ministry**

Take a meal from the freezer if  
needed for you or someone else.

## **SERVE**

**TLC Devotion**

4th Wednesday each month

**@ 11:00 a.m.**

5124 Departure Dr # 101, Raleigh

Only so many sands occupy one’s hourglass  
and sooner or later they all run out.

We may have prepared for our funerals and  
the deposition of our earthly assets, but...

Are we prepared to stand before God and  
give an account of how we spent  
the time and money... He gave us?

## Prayer Requests:

Dave Rendall, Gene & Becky Hale, Sam and Rachael, Krishana, Joan Rollinson, Ron Clifton, Will Floyd’s Fiancé’s Mother: Jennifer, Jerry & Alice Kinard, Dianne Reinoso, Janice Worthington, Cindy (Elizabeth), Nancy Hutchens (Positive Cancer), Pastor Search Committee, Barbara(81) Stroke, Joey(18) Crohn’s, Ebo (Glioblastoma #3/4)-family has 4 children, Youth Ministry, Kathy Jo and her family, Donna Williams & Family, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho (Kathy H), Patty Moyer’s son Brandon, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, The Mallory family, Carol & Colin (Kathy H), Loretta (Sandi U), Joan Summers, Shelley Riggelman (Bruce), Jordan Stevens (Lynn J.), Ellie Tappan, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin, our Military, Police, Fire, and EMS, Missionaries, our Nation.

**No matter how much money one  
has, it should be used for the  
greatest purposes on earth...**

**...For the Glory of God and “for the  
Purpose of Righteousness.”**

## **UPCOMING**

**WOMEN OF HOPE**

**Saturdays at 10 a.m. at HOPE**

**4/12/25**

**It’s never too late to make things  
right**

**4/26/25**

**Why do you call one day good and  
another day bad?**

**HOPE Church Raleigh**

**An Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

**4911 Green Rd**

**Raleigh, NC 27616**

**919-508-6827**

**Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

**www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org**

**www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh**

**Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh**

**YouTube.com (type “HOPE Church Raleigh”  
in the search box)**

#### 4. Stewardship as Care for God's Creation

Stewardship involves more than financial management—it also includes caring for God's creation. Reformed theology sees the created world as good (Genesis 1:31) and believers are entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining it.

- **Genesis 1:28:** "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"
- **Psalms 8:6-8:** "You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas."

This passage emphasizes that humans are stewards of the earth, entrusted with its care. Believers are called to exercise dominion in a way that reflects God's holiness and care for His creation.

#### 5. Stewardship and Eternal Perspective

Reformed theology holds that stewardship is not just about temporal rewards or managing things here on earth but that how believers steward their resources impacts their eternal reward in the kingdom of God.

- **Matthew 6:19-21:** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- **1 Timothy 6:18-19:** "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

These verses remind believers that material wealth is temporary, but how one handles resources in this life has eternal implications.

#### 6. Stewardship as a Witness to the World

Finally, stewardship is a way for believers to witness to the world about the goodness of God and the truth of the gospel. How believers handle their resources—whether their time, talents, or finances—can demonstrate their love for God and for others.

- **Titus 2:10:** "...and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive."
- **Matthew 5:16:** "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

In Reformed theology, stewardship is a means of bringing glory to God, showing His provision and grace to the watching world.

#### Conclusion

In Reformed theology, stewardship is an integral part of the believer's life, rooted in the understanding that God owns everything and that Christians are called to manage His resources faithfully. The concept of stewardship is not only about money or possessions but encompasses all of life. The ultimate goal is to glorify God in all areas of life—by being faithful, grateful, and responsible stewards of the resources He has entrusted to us.