

PCPC Principles of Stewardship

1. God is sovereign and we recognize Him as exercising divine ownership over all things. We are only stewards, entrusted by God. Our fiduciary responsibility is to Him alone. The fruits of good stewardship are for God's pleasure and not for our selfish purpose.

Psalm 50:10-11 – "For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is Mine."

Deuteronomy 10:14 – "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it."

Matthew 25:14-30 – "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away..."

2. By His indwelling Spirit, Christ enables us to follow Him in being a servant to all. As servants, we are charged to be faithful in handling all the money entrusted to us, not just ten percent. When we acknowledge God's ownership, every financial decision becomes a spiritual decision.

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."

1 Peter 4:10 – "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace..."

3. God is concerned with the heart of the giver as opposed to the amount of the gift. God does not need our money, nor are God's ultimate purposes contingent upon our gifts. Generous giving is a grace given by God which He provides us the opportunity to participate in His work. As we give sacrificially, we grow in our sanctification.

2 Corinthians 9:7 – "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 – "Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth..."

Matthew 6:1-4 – "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that

they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 – "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.... No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

1 Timothy 6:6-7 – "But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world."

Luke 12:34 – "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

4. Gifts are given to the Lord Himself even though they are for the benefit of other people.

Matthew 25:35-40 – "'For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.'"

5. God richly provides us with everything to enjoy. We are to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up heavenly treasure beyond our comprehension as a good foundation for the future so that we may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 – "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

6. We are called to give regularly from our first fruits as this discipline gives us an opportunity to be consistently drawn to Christ.

Proverbs 3:9 – "Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce..."

1 Corinthians 16:2-3 – "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem."

7. Giving should be done prayerfully. It should be motivated by God's abundant love for us and the amazing grace He has bestowed to us rather than a desire to impress people.

Colossians 3:17 – "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Philippians 4:4-7 – "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

8. Tithing has been a great blessing to many Christians. In both the Old and New Testaments, giving according to one's prosperity is in view when considering stewardship. Giving is not limited to the tithe but is defined by grace and a response to the love of Christ. Stewardship recognizes not only a tenth; instead, everything belongs to God. Man merely acts as a trustee of God's resources. Man should not seek to serve both God and money.

Leviticus 27:30 – "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD."

Malachi 3:10 – "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And thereby put Me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."

Matthew 23:23-24 – "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!"

Consider Jesus' teaching:

Matthew 5:17-19 – "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Luke 21:1-4 – "Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And He said, 'Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'"

9. Scripture supports giving in three areas: to the local Church, to the poor, and to extending the kingdom of God in the Church and the world. All three are important but giving to the local Church should have equal or greater importance than giving to the poor and to extending the Kingdom of God in the church and the world, so long as the local church participates in the other two. Our giving, to and through the Church, is a tangible expression of our commitment to PCPC and our support of the equipping of the Saints and the protecting of our souls. As members of PCPC, we take a vow upon membership "to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of [our] ability."

- To the local church (bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, see Malachi 3:10 above)
- To the poor

Proverbs 19:17 – *"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his deed."*

Proverbs 22:9 – *"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor."*

Luke 12:33-34 – *"Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

- To extending the Kingdom of God around the world

2 Corinthians 8:3-5 – *"For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us."*

3 John 6b-8 – *"You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth."*

10. When we share with the poor, we are sharing with Jesus Himself.

Luke 12:33-34 – *"Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

11. We are responsible to use our gifts and abilities to Extend the Kingdom.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 – *"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."*