

## Administrators/Stewardship 1<sup>st</sup> Part

God is the creator of all things and therefore He is the owner of everything. God is the owner of our lives and everything that surrounds us. When He had finished creating everything He said to man:

**28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**

**Genesis 1:28 (New International Version)**

**28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."**

What does God mean when He said "Have dominion or rule"?

Though He is the owner of everything He tells us to rule over it. This is where the idea of Christian Administrators or Stewardship comes from. This means a good and responsible administration of God's things. It's the correct way of administering God's possessions as his servants.

**Stewardship means** "person who administers another's property."

This means that he/she is administering the goods that belong to another. He is not the owner of the goods. He only administers them. He works for and acts on the behalf of the owner.

**Matthew 25: 14-30**

What is to be a useful servant?

What is the duty of the servant or steward?

What talents does the Lord give to men?

What does God expect us to do with them?

Areas of responsibility

To be able to understand this even better we will divide it in four parts:

1- Creation.

2- Money and material goods.

3- Time

4- Gifts and capabilities.

1- Creation.

When we read Genesis 1 and 2, we see that God's creation was perfect until sin came into the world. It was sin that corrupted the perfection and introduced with it chaos and disorder.

This chaos will continue and is inevitable. But as Christians we shouldn't collaborate with such a disorder. We have to be responsible with the use of natural resources: e.g. do we recycle? What do we do with contaminated substances and everything else that destroys the ecological balance?

Write five things that you can do to look after the environment (creation).

- a-
- b-
- c-
- d-
- e-

## 1. The money and materials goods

a) Tithes

b) Offerings

c) Possessions

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### a) Tithes

**a) Tithes** means "to give God 10% of everything we receive" For example if we earn £100, £10 will be given to God. Also we can tithe part of what we harvest. The tenth is not just money.

References to tithing in the Bible:

1. Abram, called "man of faith" is the first character named in the bible that **Tithed**. **Genesis 14:20**

*And blessed be God Most High,  
who delivered your enemies into your hand.  
"Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything".*

2. Abram also gave "a tenth" **Genesis 28:22**

*"And this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."*

3. Moses: **Leviticus 27:30-32**. It was not a new law; the **Tithes** were consecrated to God.

*A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. If a man redeems any of his tithes, he must add a fifth of the value to it. The entire tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod—will be holy to the LORD.*

4. **Malachi 3:8-10**. God accused them (His people) of robbery. It is very important.

*"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.  
"But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'  
"In tithes and offerings.*

*You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house.*

*Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

We can see in the Old Testament **tithing** was compulsory for the people of God. They had to obey a divine command.

In the New Testament we do not see this commandment overturned. Therefore we hold true what we read in the Old Testament **Tithe** continue prevailing.

b. Offerings

The offering is something we can add to the tithe. We give to God for all the blessings that we receive from him.

### **Biblical reference**

***Exodus 35:29, Romans 15:26, 1 Corinthians 16:2***

How to give an offering?

1. With happiness: **2 Corinthians 9:7**
2. With a humble heart: **Matthew 6:2**
3. With sacrifice: **2 Corinthians 8:1-4**
4. Do not being miserly
5. Regularly: **1 Corinthians 16:2**
6. How much do we have to offer?

***Deuteronomy 16:16-17***

#### c. Possessions

As stewards we need to be concerned about what we are doing with the goods that we possess and our attitude towards them.

We must live simply. We cannot take things with us from earth when we go to heaven.

It is not a sin to live like a rich person but it is sin to have a bad attitude towards being rich.

If God asks us for possessions and goods we have to be willing to give them to Him. **Luke 16:19-25**

#### 3 Time

We must be responsible for the use of our time. There are five areas that we must always spend time on:

- a) Devotional Life: We must read..... (**Psalm 119: 97-99**)..... (**Daniel 6:10**) and to offer God our praise and worship every day. It must be part of our daily routine.
- b) Family: Dedicating time to family life is part of caring for them. God gave us the family we have to build it up, we can only achieve this with time. We must dedicate time to our husband, wife, children, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers.
- c) Work: We must do our work to the best of our ability. (**Proverbs 18: 9 Ephesians 6: 5-8**)
- d) Others: We must set aside time to relate to our brothers/sisters in Christ. To reach the unity of the faith we must spend time with our brothers and sisters.
- e) With ourselves: We need time to rest and to recover our strength, we need time to eat in peace, sleep what is necessary and to relax.