**The Stewardship of Our Heritage**

**Our Heritage of Serving**

**4 Key Principles of Stewardship**

1. God owns everything, you own nothing.

2. God entrusts you with everything you have.

3. You can either increase or diminish what God has given you; God wants you to increase it.

4. You can be called into account at any time, and it may be today.

**1 Corinthians 1:17-18** - *For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

**1 Corinthians 2:2** - For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

**Colossians 1:28** - *We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

**Ephesians 4:16** - *…from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

3 steps on the path of creating team wins with the family of God

**I. Develop a Profound Appreciation for both the Way the Gospel Impacted You and also its Potential Impact on Others**

A. “Therefore” – Ephesians 4:1

B. As “good stewards of God’s grace” – 1 Peter 4:10

**1 Peter 1:3-4** - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*

C. With a sincere desire that others will come to know Christ too

**2 Peter 3:9** - *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

**II. Take Steps to Grow Spiritually and Develop the Gifts God Has Given You**

**Ephesians 4:16** - *…from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

A. Remember the “every man” emphasis of Colossians 1:28-29

**Colossians 1:28** - *We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

B. Accept the responsibility to progressively walk worthy of your calling in Christ

**Ephesians 4:1** - *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,*

C. Look for ways to be equipped and to help us equip others

**Ephesians 4:11-12** - *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*

**III. Ask the Lord to Help Us Develop the Level of Spiritual Growth Where as a Team, We Can Be Entrusted with More Ways to Glorify Him**

**1 Peter 4:11** - *…whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.*

1. Determine whether you really value being a servant of God.

2. Identify the way(s) God has gifted you.

3. Investigate what serving opportunities would be the most natural use of your gifts.

4. Plan what training you need and decide how you will receive it.

5. Make yourself available for deployment.

6. If married, finds ways to make it easier for your spouse to serve.

7. Look for opportunities to serve as a family.

8. Enjoy the “every person” aspect of serving.

9. Apply these principles to every area of life.

10. Make serving decisions in light of God’s strength not yours.

**1 Peter 4:11** - *…whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.*