

God's Love

John 3:16

v16: "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son...."

Great Commandment

Matthew 22:37-39

v37: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind... Love your neighbor as yourself."

Great Commission

Matthew 28:19

"...go and make disciples of all nations..."

Ephesians 3:20

"...to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."

Psalms 51:12

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you."

Acts 2:45-47

"They ...shared their meals with great joy and generosity...And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."

Exodus 35:4

"...Let those with generous hearts present the following gifts to the Lord..."

1 Timothy 6:17-19

"...Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need..."

1 Chronicles 29:9

"The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord, and King David was filled with joy."

2 Corinthians 8:2-3

"...they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity..."

(All Scripture from New Living Translation)

THE SILENT SUBJECT IN THE CHURCH

The task of communicating the stewardship message to the next generation has never been easy, but perhaps may never be more critical for the future of God's Kingdom on earth. Early in the 20th century, literally hundreds of books on stewardship education were available; yet by the 1960s, the flow of information about stewardship had decreased from a torrent to a mere trickle and had within another 20 years, become so stagnant that it had virtually become a silent subject in the Church.

Fortunately, in the final decade of the century the leadership of the Church of the Nazarene realized the need for a rebirth of stewardship education, initiating a series of significant, organizational restructures and issuing a new mandate to "Go and tell the stewardship story." Not long after entering the new millennium, the Church of the Nazarene Foundation was created to provide additional assistance in helping God's people more fully understand His directive to live generously.

Once again, the trickle of stewardship training materials has increased to a steady flow. Your stewardship staff is developing quality materials with a myriad of resource partners to assist in teaching holistic stewardship to all generations from the cradle to the grave, to provide donor interaction with our World Mission regions, and to encourage and affirm our churches in their task of raising up generous givers.

Living Generously encompasses the heart and soul of what we strive to do: empowering our people to live generously in all areas of their lives. Accepting the call to live generously gives new meaning to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission and creates fresh energy to spread the gospel of Christ to a hurting and dying world.

Living GENEROUSLY

LIVE OUT YOUR GOD-CREATED
IDENTITY. LIVE GENEROUSLY
AND GRACIOUSLY TOWARD
OTHERS, THE WAY GOD LIVES
TOWARD YOU.

Matthew 5:44 (*The Message*)



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{ STEWARDSHIP IS EVERYTHING YOU DO AFTER YOU SAY YES TO JESUS CHRIST - Clarence Stoughton }

Living Generously is the response of people who have entered into relationship with God through Jesus Christ and adopt a lifestyle that is patterned after the selfless love that took Him to the cross. Through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, they live in right relationship with their Creator, with themselves, with others, and their world. As Christ-like stewards, they develop a deep desire to mirror the image of their Creator in their decision-making and relationships, loving as Jesus instructed in the Great Commandment and living as He called in the Great Commission.

Many Christians are tempted to compartmentalize their time, talent, treasure, and relationships in two areas, one for themselves and one for God, forgetting that He is the owner of everything and they are the caretakers. The goal of Stewardship Ministries is to challenge and encourage people to be Kingdom disciples who wholeheartedly give themselves to further the call of Christ, and who passionately commit their goods and gifts to making a difference in the world. They, in turn, find lasting peace and joy (Psalms 51:12), and God is able to do immeasurably more than they could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Stewardship Ministries strives to provide quality materials that will help all who travel the



road to spiritual maturity become generous and deeply committed stewards. You may visit www.stewardship.nazarene.org



visit www.stewardship.nazarene.org for up-to-date resources, including articles, skits, sermon helps,

World Evangelism Fund

support materials, inspirational items and a comprehensive annual stewardship emphasis (CASE). Sign up for an

Total Quality Life

e-newsletter, and send your ideas and stories about things that are



working in your lives and congregations to steward@nazarene.org.

