

Practical Theology (CM3)

Stewardship of Influence

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Practical Theology (CM3)

Aug. 14 – Intro to Practical Theology & Stewardship

Aug. 21 – Stewardship of Call & Vision

Aug. 28 – Stewardship of Faith & Commitment

Sept. 4 – ***No Class***

Sept. 11 – Stewardship of Time & Opportunities

Sept. 18 – Stewardship of Money & Material Resources

Sept. 25 – Stewardship of Influence

Oct. 2 – Call to Action; Final Exam

What is “Stewardship?”

“The conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially, the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.”

A steward is someone who cares for something that belongs to someone else.

As Christians, we know that all things are made by God and still belong to Him, and we are called to be stewards of everything God places (or entrusts) into our lives

What is “Stewardship?”

Christian Stewardship has to do with every aspect of our lives and with every choice we make.

Jesus calls us to be disciples. As disciples of Christ we must have a clear understanding of the biblical call to ***Whole Life Stewardship*** as our most fundamental act of obedience.

Stewardship of Influence

➤ **What is influence?**

The action or process of producing effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., of another or others.

➤ **As Christians we plainly are called to be an positive influence on others.**

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* *Matthew 28:18-20*

➤ This directive is given to ALL of us – not just those in positions of ministry or leadership.

Stewardship of Influence

➤ **There are THREE Primary Objectives in the stewardship of Christian influence:**

1. Influencing people to know the One True God.

These days Western culture tends either to not want to talk about or acknowledge the existence of God; or else it insists we must accept as many gods as people want to claim exist.

But our Christian faith demands belief in One God:

- A. Who is Creator and Lord of all.
- B. Who is the eternal Triune God.
- c. Who is the One and only Savior of humankind.

Stewardship of Influence

➤ **There are THREE Primary Objectives at stake in the stewardship of Christian influence:**

2. Influencing people to believe in and follow Jesus Christ.

Our faith not only says there is One God, it also tells us there is only one way to know God. Not because we are arrogant or narrow-minded, or because we believe we are somehow better, but because our faith is centered in Jesus as uniquely “the Way, the Truth and the Life.”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.” John 14:6-7

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” Matthew 11:27

Stewardship of Influence

➤ There are **THREE Primary Objectives** at stake in the stewardship of Christian influence:

3. Influencing people to live a “normal” and productive Christian life.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

- A. Influencing how others think.
- B. Influencing how others feel.
- C. Influencing how others speak.
- D. Influencing how others act.

Stewardship of Influence

- ▶ **We are blessed with many Christian examples of how God can use one person to change the world.**

Justin Martyr (166): *“We desire nothing more than to suffer for our Lord Jesus Christ, for this gives us salvation and joyfulness before his dreadful judgment seat.”*

Martin Luther (1521): *“I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.”*

William Tyndale: (1536) *“Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.”*

William Wilberforce (1787): *“God Almighty has set before me two great objects, the suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners [moral values].”*

Stewardship of Influence

➤ **HOW do we influence others?**

1. *By how we treat others.*

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

2. *By how we speak.*

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... 1 Peter 3:15

3. *By how we act.*

*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
1 Peter 1:15-16*

Stewardship of Influence

➤ HOW do we influence others?

4. *By what we stand for.*

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32-33

5. *By how we deal with opposition and adversity.*

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:17-19

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:43-45**