

Worldview for the Marketplace: AUDIO #9	
LESSON AT A GLANCE	
“God Loans, Transfers, and Takes Away” Threefold Cord: Stewardship Skills	
MASTER PRINCIPLE #9 God is the author and creator of all “private property.”	
Key scriptures:	Gen. 1:26-28, 2:5,15,19, 3:8-9; Lev. 18:24-25,27,28, 20:22, 26:34-43; Num. 18:20-32; Deut. 9:4-5, 16:12-15; 2 Sam. 6:1-7; 2 Chr. 36:21; Job 38:4-24, 42:11; Ps. 2:8, 9:5, 24:1; Prov. 19:23, 24:1; Jer. 2:7, 3:2, 12:4, 16:18; Hos. 4:1-3; Matt. 13:12; Luke 16:10-12; John 14:15, 21:15-17; Acts 17:26; 1 Cor. 4:7; Col. 1:15-18; 2 Tim. 2:24
Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>Properly caring for God's people and things is at the center of God's heart for His children..</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private property is a concept established and modeled by God. 2. Since God created and owns all things, “private property” is actually a stewardship trust by man of God's things. 3. We grow by caring for people and things; the stewardship of “private property” is essential to cultural maturity. 4. What God gives us no man can take away; what we take for ourselves we cannot keep.
How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:	
Key business applications: <i>The ethics of the private sector substantially determine both the maturity and longevity of the surrounding culture.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal investment and a sense of personal responsibility are the spiritual origin of what we call “profit” (economic theory; profit-sharing; socialism proprietors). 2. The management of “private property” is ultimately a trust not a right (eminent domain theory; fiduciary theory; corporate law). 3. Stewardship skills are the engine of economic growth (capitalism; business training; promotion theory). 4. Material gain through greed instead of service, empowerment, and stewardship skills corrupts the culture (business ethics; taxation theory; private sector theory, marketing-advertising).

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You are called to co-manage God's creation in Christ.

Romans 8:17

Study • Train • Obey

“God Loans, Transfers, and Takes Away”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #9:

God is the author and creator of all “private property” (Gen. 1:26-28, 2:5,15,19, 3:8-9; Num. 18:20-32; Deut. 16:12-15; Job 38:4-24, 42:11; Ps. 2:8, 24:1; Col. 1: 15-18). This lesson deals with issues related to the concepts of “private property”; ownership; stewardship; and how God gives and takes away according to His will and our obedience .

- A. The heart of Judeo-Christianity is the truth that our Creator has placed us on His earth to steward it for Him, according to His “rules,” and that He desires to disciple us in the process (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:5,15,19, 3:8-9).
 - 1. While man is God’s vice-regent on earth, disobedience often brings dispossession.
- B. Our goals for this study lesson should be the following:
 - 1. To better understand the awesome authority and responsibility God has given to us.
 - 2. To have a broader and deeper understanding of the reality that disobedience threatens all that we have built as individuals, families, companies, and even nations.

II. Private property is a concept established and modeled by God (Job 38:4-24, 42:11; Ps. 2:8, 24:1; Col. 1: 15-18).

- A. God owns all things, as the above scriptures clearly state.
 - 1. Rebellious mankind rejects the concept of a “Creator” because it carries with it the reality of both accountability to that Creator and the limitations of man’s ownership.
 - 2. As we will discuss in this lesson, man truly owns nothing.
- B. God, in asserting His ownership of all things, legitimizes the concept of private property.
 - 1. If “owning things” is a sin, God is the chief of sinners.
 - 2. Jesus became poor for a season, and a reason, and then returned to being the owner of all private property (Col. 1:15-18)!
 - 3. Social philosophers, like Marx and Rousseau, called all private property “theft,” and this whole issue is yet to be fully resolved in the public dialogue.
 - 4. Christianity alone, of all the world’s major religions, has a theology of economics and a theology of private property.
- C. Property issues inevitably lead into the discussion of “social justice” and the property rights of individuals, and the role of civil government to re-distribute wealth through taxation and confiscation.
 - 1. This is why biblical jurisdictional government is critical to this discussion: Biblically, civil government is not to originate charity but simply pass individual’s charity along to the needy (Num. 18:20-32; Deut. 16:12-15).
 - 2. Biblical law is to be the foundation of all social justice. In a secular society, “justice” becomes arbitrary.
 - 3. To take from a person what is rightfully theirs by virtue of lawful investment or labor is organized civil-theft and extortion.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that all private property is ultimately theft from common humanity by the culturally dominant.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, personal investment and a sense of personal responsibility are the spiritual origin of what we call "profit" (economic theory, profit-sharing, socialism, proprietors). Private property is a concept established and modeled by God. The stewardship of private property produces maturity.

III. Since God created and owns all things, "private property" is actually a stewardship trust by man of God's things (Prov. 19:23; Matt. 13:12, 25:14-30; 1 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:24).

- A. All we have in terms of natural or spiritual talents and gifts, time, relationships, or possibilities are gifts from God.
 - 1. I do not believe in "humility," I believe in reality. If you are in reality, you will be humble.
 - 2. Pride is ignorance parading as power.
- B. God does not want us to take pride in our stewardship over His things.
 - 1. He wants us to be humbled by the gift; responsible to the Giver; obedient with the fruits; and generous to those in need.
 - 2. He wants us to bring increase to all the gifts, relationships, and material things He has put into our hands (Matt. 13:12, 25:14-30).
 - 3. He wants us to be "satisfied" in our souls and spirits with the measure of dominion God has allowed us to see (Prov. 19:23).
- C. God wants to disciple us (mastery) into all things, especially caring for His people.
 - 1. That is what the two trees in the garden were all about: independent learning (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) or relationally-based learning (the tree of life).
 - 2. The supreme questions for those desiring to grow in stewardship skills are these:
 - a. How much can you manage without corrupting your values or ethics?
 - b. How much can you manage without de-humanizing yourself and other people, relating to them as objects or means to an end?
 - c. How much can you manage without living in destructive anxiety (2 Tim. 2:24)?

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Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that man is free to do whatever he wills with what he freely owns.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, the management of "private property" is ultimately a trust, not a right (eminent domain theory; fiduciary theory; corporate law). All that we own is a gift from God to be stewarded according to His principles and truth.

IV. We grow by caring for people and things; the stewardship of “private property” is essential to cultural maturity (2 Sam. 6:1-7; Luke 16:10-12; John 14:15, 21:15-17)

- A. God gave us relationships and things to care for because they not only teach us skills and lead to wisdom, they reveal our love for God and others.
 - 1. Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). If I love Him, I will care for His people (John 21:15-17) and things as well.
 - 2. When we handle His ark (special projects or people), we should do so with great care (2 Sam. 6:1-7)!
- B. That which is owned by everybody is owned by nobody.
 - 1. Ownership/stewardship carries with it the proprietorial spirit of active caring.
 - 2. Socialistic-communistic nations have given us a tragic living example of the poverty spirit produced by removing the reality of personal responsibility for things.
 - 3. Welfarism produces the same poverty spirit and lack of growing stewardship skills. As a result, Matt. 13:12’s law of stewardship, “use it or lose it,” comes into play.
 - 4. Neither individuals nor nations can come to maturity without a full and energetic balance between personal stewardship skills and enabling-giving skills.
- C. The private sector (marketplace) is the socially “moral compass” of the economic society.
 - 1. If corruption operates in the marketplace, man’s labor-reward values become cynical and man removes his heart from his work, producing a “sick soul.”
 - 2. When the economic game is “rigged,” trust and investments cease.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that ideally, as John Lennon says in the song “Imagine”, that there should be no nations, and that man should share all things.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, stewardship skills are the engine of economic growth (capitalism; business training; promotion theory). God Himself establishes nations and determines who stewards them. Likewise, He apportions private property within a nation, providing an opportunity for individuals to mature in a variety of areas.

V. What God gives us no man can take away; what we take for ourselves we cannot keep (Lev. 18:24-25, 27,28; 20:22, 26:34,43; Deut. 9:4-5; 2 Chr. 36:21; Ps. 9:5; Jer. 2:7, 3:2, 12:4, 16:18; Hos. 4:1-3; Acts 17:26).

- A. Because God owns all things, and all possibilities, what we take for ourselves rather than receive from Him, is a form of theft or illegal acquisition.
 - 1. Therefore it cannot be honored or kept in the long run.
 - 2. Wisdom is to recognize the doors and opportunities God has opened for us, not doors opened by ourselves, our greed, or need for control, or those sins operating through someone else.

B. These laws of God's release on loan, transferring to others, and taking away, operate not only on individuals and companies, they operate on national levels throughout history as well.

1. Since God owns all the land and resources of the earth, He gives them to nations and takes them away for disobedience (Deut. 9:4-5 among many).
2. He especially takes land away from those people who shed innocent blood through human sacrifice, cruelty, abortion, and murder (Lev. 18:24-25,27,28, 20:22, 26:34,43; Deut. 9:4-5; 2 Chr. 36:21; Ps. 9:5; Jer. 2:7, 3:2, 12:4, 16:18; Hos. 4:1-3; Acts 17:26).
3. As you can see from Lev. 26:34,43 and 2 Chr. 36:21, God dispossessed Israel from its land for a season for not letting it rest under Sabbath law.
4. One of the great cries of the "native peoples" are their charges of dispossession. Every "native group" over the last 2,000 years took the land from someone else! The real issue is God determines who stewards His lands and their borders (Acts 17:26).

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that what we do not take for ourselves, if we are able, someone else will.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, material gain through greed, instead of service, empowerment, and stewardship skills corrupts the culture (business ethics; taxation theory; private sector theory, marketing-advertising).