

Assignment Title: Stewardship and the Kingdom of God –

Stewardship and the Kingdom of God / Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan

Name: Henry Williams
Campus Location: ATS/NY City

Course Title: Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations For Ministry
Course Number: SF505
Semester & Year: Spring 2023
Professor: Dr. Ronald Walborn
Date Submitted: 3/28/23

Stewardship and the Kingdom of God speaks on our duty, as sons and daughters of God, to be responsible with what He has entrusted to us. The authors state that this doesn't only apply to finances, but to other areas of our lives as well. We are stewards who are responsible for God's property, not our own. The book is separated into two halves. The first half focuses on defining Biblical stewardship, illustrated by examples from both the New Testament and the Old Testament. The second half focuses on themes and subjects related to being responsible stewards.

"Human beings who possess God's creation do so only as God graciously delegates,"¹ The authors explore multiple examples of how God entrusts His creations to men throughout the Old Testament first. We see how, as early as Genesis, man is given domain over God's creation, and we see how the Israelites were "at best, temporary tenants. The land was God's gift..."² We are also shown how God gave them laws about how to care for the land. The Old Testament views show that everything is God's and because of that we are to be responsible stewards of that which he has given. Giving and being generous with what you have is also shown as response of worship, to God's generosity to us as individuals.

This concept of God owning everything, distributing as He sees fit, is shown in the New Testament, through the parable of the faithful and unfaithful servants, and the concept is then expanded beyond land, money, or sacrificial animals. We are to be good managers of the talents that He has provided, as well as good stewards of the resources that He has given. Since what we have is not ours, we need to be responsible with what we've been entrusted with, and use it, not

¹ Walborn, Ronald and Frank Chan. "Stewardship and the Kingdom of God." Colorado Springs, CO: Office of Church Stewardship, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001. 8.

² Ibid. 8.

for our own purposes, but His. One must also be aware that we will be held accountable for our stewardship.

The next section starts by illustrating how materialism can keep us from being good stewards, and how we need to practice generosity. It talks about how we need to avoid over attachment to material goods and comfort, and how our mentality towards giving should be one that is of the same heart as God, who so freely gives to us. Finally there is a warning on debt and the stronghold it can become in our lives.

I give tithes regularly, and I've served at church for a long time now, but I think that it's still incredibly hard for me to live with this mind set. Tithing always made sense to me as a member of a group. I think that subconsciously, tithing turned into, my putting part of my resources, and energy into a pot with everyone else at church, so the church can continue to function. While I still think that this is a function that tithes (both of money and of labor) has, it is a far cry from, "an expression of a grace-birthed heart relationship with God"³ which is the original intent as described by the book.

I agree with everything the authors say about the heart and mindset behind tithing, intellectually, but it is still a struggle. I appreciated the practical steps included at the end, on giving first, cheerfully, faithfully, wisely, and without seeking recognition. I do however think the section about spiritual warfare, seemed like it was more a warning about materialism, than a discussion on spiritual warfare. Even the example at the end of the section isn't willing to declare the situation an example of spiritual warfare. It does make sense that it would be difficult to declare that without a shadow of a doubt, but I think the naming of the section becomes a little

³ Walborn, Ronald and Frank Chan. "Stewardship and the Kingdom of God." Colorado Springs, CO: Office of Church Stewardship, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001. 29.

confusing. I will continue to tithe regularly and generously, but I'll be guarding my heart more now.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely__100%

Quickly but Completely_____%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely_____%

Quickly and NOT Completely_____%

Not at all

Signed: Henry Williams

Bibliography

Walborn, Ronald and Frank Chan. "Stewardship and the Kingdom of God." Colorado Springs, CO: Office of Church Stewardship, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2001.