

Assignment Title: Reading Report #4

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

Name: Stephany Ortiz
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: April 5, 2023

In Stewardship and the Kingdom of God, the authors define the principle of biblical stewardship, outline its importance and prevalence in all areas of one life and its instances in the Old and New Testament. They state that three principles of stewardship in the Old Testament are: 1) God is the owner of everything; 2) God's covenant people are held responsible for their management of God's resources; 3) Giving is a worshipful response to God's ownership of all things. And in the New Testament, Jesus affirmed these principles through the parable of the faithful and unfaithful servant (Luke 12:42-48); how we are called or invited by God to "manage" not only the material goods, but also (and most importantly), the message of the gospel.

Good and biblical stewardship in our lives can be exemplified in our constant YES to God, in *all* things, and everything else that may come as a result of His invitation. Our life cannot be a true example or witness of Christlikeness in our discipleship and stewardship "without the Lordship of Christ as the true foundation." In my own life, I have realized that I have accepted Jesus Christ as my savior but not as my Lord yet, meaning yes, I abide by/within Him, but I have at times picked and chosen which area to come under His reign with. Compartmentalizing my life and Christ; This showed I have not been a good steward of my life for as Dr. Walborn and Frank Chan defined it, stewardship is, "coming fully under the reign of God in every area of our lives." ¹ Regarding the financial aspect of stewardship, I do tithe, but the Lord has highlighted my poor management of the remaining 90%. I have decided to honor Him with the 10% but that does not mean I should not do the same with how I choose to spend/manage the remaining.

¹ Ron Walborn & Frank Chan, "Stewardship and the Kingdom of God" (Colorado, C&MA, 2001), 6.

One area of my life where I am currently struggling the most with stewardship and discipleship is with my time. Working full time and going to seminary at the same time, it has been a constant journey of trial and error; falling and getting back up when it comes to time management. Some times I am on top of all my assignments and complying with all things in a timely manner in my life, whether it is at work, school, or my personal life. However, I have noticed that there always comes a point where I usually crash or one of those may go neglected for a while. Trying to find a healthy balance of it all has been difficult for me.

On another hand, while reading this material, an area of my life that the Lord highlighted for me as well was ministry/gifting and my interaction within my community or lack thereof. I do not feel I am being a good steward of my giftings during this season of my life and sometimes feel as if I'm just sitting on them and not proactively being available for the Holy Spirit to use them. I have honestly found myself unsure of how to step back into ministry and do what the Holy Spirit has been prompting me to do, after being on a break for about a year. Which can seem so contradictory because the reason I am in seminary is to be prepared and equipped to be able to be a good steward of the ministry the Lord calls me into, so why when He's called, I am still reluctant. Dr. Walborn and Frank Chan stated, "We have preached a boldless cross that has robbed Christianity of its power and has turned the biblical teaching of stewardship into a task most preachers would rather avoid."² I pray for the *boldness* of the cross, to say YES to the FULL invitation of Christ, to partake with Him in making His kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

² Ron Walborn & Frank Chan, "Stewardship and the Kingdom of God" (Colorado, C&MA, 2001), 4.

Thoroughly and Entirely_100_____%

Quickly but Completely_____%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely_____%

Quickly and NOT Completely_____%

Not at all

Signed: Stephany Ortiz

Bibliography

Walborn, R. & Chan, F. (2001). "Stewardship and the Kingdom of God." C&MA.