

Six Principles of Stewardship

1. Ownership – God owns it all

1.1 God owns everything

Psalms 24:1 The earth *is* the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

1.2 God owns every Christian

1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

2. Stewardship – Managing that which belongs to another

2.1 We are stewards of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 4:1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
New Living Translation: So look at Apollos and me as mere servants of Christ who have been put in charge of explaining God's secrets.

2.2 We are stewards of our spiritual gifts

1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

3. Relationship – There is a relationship between what we have and the grace of God

Deuteronomy 8:18 "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

4. Lordship – Because the tithe is the Lord's giving it to the Lord is an issue of Lordship

Leviticus 27:30 'And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD'S. *It is* holy to the LORD.

Malachi 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

5. Churchmanship – The tithe properly goes undesignated into the church

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room* enough to receive it

6. Partnership – When you invest in eternity, you have a Partner who will guarantee a return

Matthew 6:19-20 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

The Bible teaches that everything in our lives – time, abilities, and finances – belongs to the Lord and that we are to manage His resources in His way. As God has entrusted His message to us, believers are stewards of the gospel. In regard to financial giving, the tithe is the starting place. We owe God a tithe; offerings are expressions of worship above the tithe. We believe in “storehouse tithing,” giving the first ten percent through the general church budget.

--Church Principles: First Baptist Church, Tallassee