

# Catholic Character Theme

## Stewardship



**Related Virtues:** [Faith](#), [Hope](#), [Love](#), [Justice](#), [Prudence](#), [Temperance](#), [Fortitude](#)

### Descriptor

The language of our *story* speaks of **stewardship**. Stewardship is about caring for the gifts God has entrusted to us. We are called to be good stewards of our talents, our bodies, our souls, our communities and of God's creation. Persons "who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom and the source of all they have and are and will be. They know themselves to be recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another." (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, December 1992) Stewardship is visible in our Catholic school communities when care for God's many gifts is practiced out of love for God and one another. The character of Catholic school communities tells us about **stewardship**.

### Scripture Quotes

#### **God Makes Man and Woman Stewards of Creation**

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. God said, "See I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food. And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

**Genesis 1: 28-31**

### **Appointed Creation's Steward**

The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and care for it.

**Genesis 2: 15**

### **Tithing from God's Bounty**

All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees, belong to the Lord, as sacred to Him.

**Leviticus 27: 30**

### **Contributing from Blessings Bestowed**

No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you.

**Deuteronomy 16: 16-17**

### **The Sabbatical Year – The Call to Let the Land Rest and Regenerate**

The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a Sabbath for the Lord. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. You may eat what the land yields during its sabbath - you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound labourers who live with you; for your livestock also, and for the wild animals in your land all its yield shall be for food.

**Leviticus 25: 1-7**

### **God's Blessing for Tithing to Sustain Those With No Land**

Each year you shall tithe all the produce that grows in the field you have sown... so that the Levite who has no share in the heritage with you and also the alien, the orphan and the widow who belong to your community, may come and eat their fill so that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you undertake.

**Deuteronomy 14: 22, 29**

### **Rules of Warfare – Respecting the Enemy's Crops and Wood**

If you besiege a town for a long time, making war against it in order to take it, you must not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them. Although you may take food from them, You must not cut them down. Are trees in the field human beings that they should come under siege from you? You may destroy only the trees that you know do not produce food; you may cut them down for use in building siegeworks against the town that makes war with you, until it falls.

**Deuteronomy 20: 19-20**

### **Almsgiving and Storing up Treasure in Heaven**

Give alms in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, distribute even some of that. But do not hesitate to give alms; you will be storing up a goodly treasure for yourself against the day of adversity..

**Tobit 4: 8-9**

### **The Glory of God in Creation**

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.  
There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.  
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

**Psalm 19: 1- 6**

### **Gratitude for God's Blessings**

How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me?

**Psalm 116: 12**

### **The Earth is the Lord's**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

**Psalm 24:1**

### **The Lord Made the Heavens**

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.  
He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;  
he put the deeps in storehouses.  
Let all the earth fear the Lord;  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.  
For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.

**Psalm 33: 6-9**

### **[Additional Quotes on Stewardship](#)**

## **Connection to Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations**

***The Catholic Character Theme "Stewardship" relates to the following Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:***

- 1. A Discerning Believer Formed in the Catholic Faith Community** who  
**CGE1c** -actively reflects on **God's Word** as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures;

- CGE1d** -develops attitudes and values founded on Catholic **social teaching** and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good;
- CGE1e** -speaks the **language of life**... “recognizing that life is an unearned gift and that a person entrusted with life does not own it but that one is called to protect and cherish it.” (Witnesses to Faith)
- CGE1f** -seeks intimacy with God and celebrates **communion** with God, others and creation through prayer and worship;
- CGE1i** -integrates faith with life;

## **2. An Effective Communicator** who

- CGE2e** -uses and integrates the Catholic faith tradition, in the critical analysis of the arts, media, technology and information systems to enhance the quality of life.

## **3. A Reflective and Creative Thinker** who

- CGE3a** -recognizes there is more grace in our world than sin and that hope is essential in facing all challenges;
- CGE3b** -creates, adapts, evaluates new ideas in light of the common good;
- CGE3c** -thinks reflectively and creatively to evaluate situations and solve problems;
- CGE3d** -makes decisions in light of gospel values with an informed moral conscience;
- CGE3e** -adopts a holistic approach to life by integrating learning from various subject areas and experience;
- CGE3f** -examines, evaluates and applies knowledge of interdependent systems (physical, political, ethical, socio-economic and ecological) for the development of a just and compassionate society.

## **4. A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life Long Learner** who

- CGE4a** -demonstrates a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others;
- CGE4b** -demonstrates flexibility and adaptability;
- CGE4c** -takes initiative and demonstrates Christian leadership;
- CGE4d** -responds to, manages and constructively influences change in a discerning manner;
- CGE4e** -sets appropriate goals and priorities in school, work and personal life;
- CGE4f** -applies effective communication, decision-making, problem-solving, time and resource management skills;
- CGE4g** -examines and reflects on one’s personal values, abilities and aspirations influencing life’s choices and opportunities;
- CGE4h** -participates in leisure and fitness activities for a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

## **5. A Collaborative Contributor** who

- CGE5c** -develops one’s God-given potential and makes a meaningful contribution to society;
- CGE5d** -finds meaning, dignity, fulfillment and vocation in work which contributes to the common good;
- CGE5e** -respects the rights, responsibilities and contributions of self and others;
- CGE5f** -exercises Christian leadership in the achievement of individual and group goals;
- CGE5g** -achieves excellence, originality, and integrity in one’s own work and supports these qualities in the work of others;
- CGE5h** -applies skills for employability, self-employment and entrepreneurship relative to Christian vocation.

## **6. A Caring Family Member** who

- CGE6b** -recognizes human intimacy and sexuality as God given gifts, to be used as the creator intended;
- CGE6c** -values and honours the important role of the family in society;

- CGE6d** -values and nurtures opportunities for family prayer;  
**CGE6e** -ministers to the family, school, parish, and wider community through service.

### 7. A Responsible Citizen who

- CGE7a** -acts morally and legally as a person formed in Catholic traditions;  
**CGE7b** -accepts accountability for one's own actions;  
**CGE7c** -seeks and grants forgiveness;  
**CGE7d** -promotes the sacredness of life;  
**CGE7e** -witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society;  
**CGE7h** -exercises the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship;  
**CGE7i** -respects the environment and uses resources wisely;  
**CGE7j** -contributes to the common good.

## Related Concepts

ABUNDANCE	JUBILEE	SELF-CARE
COMMUNITY	LIFELONG LEARNING	SERVICE
CONSERVATION /	LIFESTYLE	SOLIDARITY
PRESERVATION	MYSTERY, WONDER AND AWE	SPIRITUALITY
COOPERATION	PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
ECOLOGY	THE POOR	TITHING
ENTERPRISE	PERSONHOOD AND IDENTITY	VOCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	PROPERTY	TALENTS
EVANGELIZATION	RESPECT FOR LIFE / QUALITY	VIRTUE
FREE WILL	OF LIFE	WEALTH
HUMAN RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITY	
INTERDEPENDENCE	SABBATH	
	SCARCITY	

## Links to Online Resources

### Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church

#### Chapter 10: Safeguarding the Environment

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/justpeace/documents/rc\\_p\\_c\\_justpeace\\_doc\\_20060526\\_compendio-dott-soc\\_en.html#CHAPTER%20TEN](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_p_c_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_en.html#CHAPTER%20TEN)

Presents Catholic Church teaching on stewardship for the environment within a variety of headings: I BIBLICAL ASPECTS, II MAN (sic.) AND THE UNIVERSE OF CREATED THINGS, III THE CRISIS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT, IV A COMMON RESPONSIBILITY a. The environment, a collective good b. The use of biotechnology c. The environment and the sharing of goods d. New lifestyles.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

#### "Respect for the Integrity of Creation"

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_P8B.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P8B.HTM)

This subsection comprises four articles that address respect for creation's integrity. This link will take the reader to the section within which these articles are found: *Respect for Persons and Their Goods*, which has useful information on stewardship in a wider sense, as well. Here is where these articles are found in the Catechism:

Part III (Life in Christ), Section II (The Ten Commandments), Chapter II (You Shall Love Your Neighbour as Yourself), Article Seven: The Seventh Commandment, Section II: *Respect for Persons and Their Goods*. Nos: 2415-2418.

### **Diocese of Calgary Stewardship Resources**

Excellent collection of resources on stewardship - for personal gifts, for community, parish and creation.

<http://www.rcdiocese-calgary.ab.ca/stewardship/>

### **Forum on Religion and Ecology**

<http://environment.harvard.edu/religion/religion/>

This site offers a rich variety of the perspectives of the major world religious traditions on the present ecological crisis.

### **Catholic Conservation Center**

<http://conservation.catholic.org/>

The mission of the Catholic Conservation Center is to promote ecology, environmental justice, and the stewardship of creation in the light of sacred Scripture and living Tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. Their goal is to help bring about the ecological conversion called for by Pope John Paul II. His World Day of Peace Message, ***Peace with God - Peace with all of Creation*** announced, "There is a growing awareness that world peace is threatened not only by the arms race, regional conflicts, and continued injustice among peoples and nations, but also by a lack of due respect for nature.... Moreover, a new ecological awareness is beginning to emerge which, rather than being downplayed, ought to be encouraged to develop into concrete programs and initiatives." The Catholic Conservation Center is one such initiative. Site's *7 Themes for Ecological Responsibility* are a good senior elementary and secondary level discussion piece, as are many of their other resources, which are geared to promote stewardship and reverence for God's gift of creation.

<http://www.faith-commongood.net/index.asp>

Seeking the common good in Canada is a tradition long-lived by peoples who have struggled to be a community in the rugged beauty of this land. The harsh climate, the distances, and the inter-mixing of peoples have challenged us, yet we have also been sustained by the belief - still valid today - that this land and people have tremendous opportunities ahead. The world community, and Canadians themselves view this northern place as a land of opportunity and tolerance; a place to create a home where peace, fairness, democracy, ecological well-being, economic opportunity, and seeking the common good are a way of life. Yet we increasingly live in a competitive era of brand-name consumerism and mega-market homogenisation. *Faith & the Common Good* is an initiative asking Canadians what values we believe should form our communities - small and large. *Faith & the Common Good* is intentionally being inter-faith and inter-cultural in its organization and objectives because this is Canada now, and increasingly will be in our future. To live inter-faith/inter-culturally in a spirit of the common good is our vision for Canada. Of particular interest with regard to stewardship is the organization's Green Rule poster and related resources.

### **Catholic Stewardship**

<http://www.catholicstewardship.com/>

A very well developed site that includes descriptions of many Catholic publications on EOCCC: Our Language, Our Story 1.0, 2009.

stewardship and development as well as conferences, news and other activities. Very much from the Catholic perspective.

### **The Cornwall Declaration on Environmental Stewardship**

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/articles/read/the-cornwall-declaration-on-environmental-stewardship/>

A declaration on environmental stewardship which emerges from the Judaeo-Christian tradition. This document calls all the earth's peoples to reverence the human person as image and likeness of God and to assume their biblical role as stewards over God's creation.

### ***"We Are Still Betraying the Mandate God Has Given Us"***

<http://conservation.catholic.org/declaration.htm>

**Joint Declaration on the Environment** by Pope John Paul II and Orthodox Patriarch Bartholemew of Constantinople. A very solid declaration on the need for humankind to respond to the ecological crisis with conversion, prayer and cooperation.

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### **Kairos - Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiatives**

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/e/index.asp>

KAIROS unites churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response to the call to "do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). We deliberate on issues of common concern, advocate for social change and join with people of faith and goodwill in action for social transformation.

### **Catholic Church on Ecological Degradation**

<http://faculty.theo.mu.edu/schaefer/Church%20on%20Ecological%20Degradation.htm>

This site features links to a variety of texts, many of them from official Church sources, as related to environmental issues. Very useful for locating specific references to Catholic Church teaching.

### **Walking on Water**

<http://www.rclondon.ca/wow>

A Guide for Groups Exploring Faith and Justice designed with young adults in mind and EOCCC: Our Language, Our Story 1.0, 2009.

open to faith groups of all ages. This useful and user friendly resource is a free, 94 page download, much of it classroom and/or retreat ready. It was prepared in collaboration with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace and the Catholic Diocese of London, Ontario.

### **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace**

<http://www.devp.org/>

Development and Peace is the overseas development office of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Materials related to their ongoing development and relief campaigns provide an opportunity for Catholic educators to teach students about compassion to the less fortunate, and to exercise this compassion through fundraising that will help the poor in the developing world live with hope and dignity.

### **Celebrating an Education for Justice and Peace**

<http://www.occb.on.ca/english/celebrating.html>

A letter from the Ontario Bishops to Ontario's Catholic secondary school students. This letter provides a helpful overview of how we can educate for justice and peace and become involved in related efforts.

### **Canada, Continuity and Change. Catholic Values Supplement. A Guide for Use By Teachers in Roman Catholic Separate Schools**

<http://www.fitzhenry.ca/Download/guides/CanadaContCatholicValues.pdf>

This resource contains lesson ideas for instructing elementary and secondary level students in a number of different areas, including stewardship. Lessons are linked to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, ICE Catholic

### **The Otesha Project**

<http://www.otesha.ca/>

We know that our current way of life is harming the planet and its inhabitants. Only hope and action will remedy this. For a better future, we each must re-evaluate our own actions and BE the positive change we want to see in the world. A dream born in Kenya has become a charitable organization of hopeful young people uniting as the Otesha Project. Otesha, which means "reason to dream" in Swahili, was created to mobilize youth to create local and global change through their daily consumer choices. We believe that there are alternatives to our culture of overconsumption, and that each one of us has opportunities to have positive impacts every single day. We aim to demonstrate the positive effects our everyday choices can have, by living sustainably, changing the world, and having loads of fun--all at the same time!

### **Forum on Religion and Ecology: Official Christianity Statements**

<http://environment.harvard.edu/religion/religion/christianity/statements/>

This site features the original texts of official statements by a variety of Christian churches related to ecology.

### **Introduction to Religion and Ecology: World Religions**

<http://environment.harvard.edu/religion/religion/>

This site features articles dedicated to explaining the ecological positions of a variety of religious traditions.

### **National Catholic Rural Life Conference**

<http://www.ncrlc.com/>

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference is a membership organization grounded in a spiritual tradition that brings together the Church, care of community and care of creation. It also contains resources around the ethics of eating as well as spirituality.

### **Earth Day Canada**

<http://www.earthday.ca/EDy2k/Home/homefrm1.html>

This is an important website dedicated to Earth Day in Canada. It contains a wide variety of resources for schools and communities, as well as many useful links.

### **Earth Day Kit**

[http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/social\\_justice/earth\\_day/earth\\_day.pdf](http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/social_justice/earth_day/earth_day.pdf)

The Committee for Social Justice of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board has created this diverse collection of curricular and liturgical resources, links to relevant web sites for teachers, and suggested social action projects. Many of these are ready for use in classrooms or school assemblies. A CD of the complete kit, which also features a video presentation prepared by WaterCan, is available upon request (contact information available at [http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/social\\_justice/index.html](http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/social_justice/index.html))

### **Environment Canada**

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/regeng.html>

This is the official site of the Canadian Ministry of the Environment. Of particular interest is its "Green Lane" page (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/envhome.html>) which is Environment Canada's Internet resource for weather and environmental information. The Green Lane helps connect Canadians, exchange information and share knowledge for environmental decision-making.

### **Learning for a Sustainable Future**

<http://www.schoolnet.ca/learning/content.htm>

Learning for a Sustainable Future is a Canadian non-profit organization whose mandate is to work with educators from across Canada to integrate the concepts and principles of sustainable development into the curricula at all grade levels.

### **Ontario Ministry of the Environment**

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/>

This is the official web site of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. It is particularly useful for accessing information on current environmental issues in Ontario.

### **YouthCan**

<http://www.youthcanworld.org/>

This site, which features projects for and by youth, invites you to consider starting your own project or linking up your students with another classroom across the world.

### **WaterCan**

<http://www.watercan.com/>

This Canadian charitable organization provides much useful information about Canadian and global water and sanitation issues, how WaterCan is helping to improve the lives of people in developing countries by increasing their access to safe drinking

water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education - and how you can help! It's "Kid's Section" features many classroom ready activities. Web links to related sites are extensive.

### **The Water Stewards Network**

<http://www.waterstewards.org/>

The Water Stewards Network works to build cohesiveness among regional water networks emerging around the world and to emphasize the theme of stewardship in the global dialogue. This project also works to collect and disseminate informational resources on sustainable water management in order to empower communities to take more local responsibility, thereby rebuilding a culture of stewardship.

### **Public Citizen: Critical Mass Energy and Environmental Program**

<http://www.citizen.org/cmep/>

This organization works to protect citizens and the environment from the dangers posed by nuclear power and seeks policies that will lead to safe, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy. It advocates creation of an agricultural and food distribution system that guarantees safe, wholesome food produced in a humane and sustainable manner, and works to protect the world's fragile water resources from commodification, privatization, and mass diversion.

### **Chief Seattle's Speech**

<http://www.kyphilom.com/www/seattle.html>

While there remains controversy as to whether this speech was ever made, nonetheless, versions of the text (two are found on this site) continue to inspire. The speech, or portions of it, could be useful, for example, for an environmental assembly or prayer service celebration.

## **Stewardship**

### **Additional Scripture Quotes**

#### **The Lord Loves All That Exists**

For you love all things that exist,  
and detest none of the things that you have made,  
for you would not have made anything if you had hated it.  
How would anything have endured if you had not willed it?  
Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved?  
You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living.

**Wisdom 11: 24-26**

#### **The Greatness of the Lord, Who Made Heaven and Earth**

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:  
Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?  
Gird up your loins like a man,  
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
 Tell me, if you have understanding.  
 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!  
 Or who stretched the line upon it?  
 On what were its bases sunk,  
 or who laid its cornerstone  
 when the morning stars sang together  
 and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

...

'Can you hunt the prey for the lion,  
 or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,  
 when they crouch in their dens,  
 or lie in wait in their covert?  
 Who provides for the raven its prey,  
 when its young ones cry to God,  
 and wander about for lack of food?

### **Job 38**

#### **The Majesty of God's Creation**

Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?  
 Do you observe the calving of the deer?  
 Can you number the months that they fulfil,  
 and do you know the time when they give birth,  
 when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,  
 and are delivered of their young?  
 Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;  
 they go forth, and do not return to them.

...

Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up  
 and makes its nest on high?  
 It lives on the rock and makes its home  
 in the fastness of the rocky crag.  
 From there it spies the prey;  
 its eyes see it from far away.  
 Its young ones suck up blood;  
 and where the slain are, there it is."

### **Job 39**

#### **Woe to The Unjust Who Pillage the Poor and Their Land**

Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,  
 and lounge on their couches,  
 and eat lambs from the flock,  
 and calves from the stall;  
 who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,  
 and like David improvise on instruments of music;

who drink wine from bowls,  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!  
Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,  
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.  
**Amos 6: 4-6**

### **Giving Freely as we Have Received**

Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.  
**Matthew 10: 8**

### **The Widow's Contribution**

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.

**Mark 12: 41-44**

### **The Rewards of Generosity and Selfishness**

Anyone who has ears ought to hear. Take care what you hear. The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given to you. To the one who has, more will be given; from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

**Mark 4: 23-25**

### **The Overflowing Reward of the Generous**

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.

**Luke 6: 38**

### **Answering for What is Entrusted**

Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.

**Luke 12: 48**

### **Discipleship and Love of Possessions**

Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple  
**Luke 14: 33**

### **The First Christians' Stewardship of One Another's Needs**

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the

feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

**Acts 4: 32-34**

### **Caring for The Weak**

In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

**Acts 20: 35**

### **God's Abundant Care for Humankind**

He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

**Romans 8: 32**

### **Stewardship of the Spirit's Gifts**

For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith, if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Romans 12: 4-8**

### **Trustworthiness of the Steward**

Thus one should regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Now it is of course required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

**1 Corinthians 4: 1-2**

### **Each is Gifted by God**

Indeed, I wish everyone to be as I am, but each has a particular gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

**1 Corinthians 7: 7**

### **Do All for God's Glory**

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

**1 Corinthians 10: 31**

### **Serve One Another as Good Stewards of God's Grace**

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever.

**1 Peter 4: 10-11**

### **The Stewardship of Compassion**

If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

**1 John 3: 17-18**

### **Your Light Must Show Before Others**

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?...you are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must show before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

**Matthew 5: 13-16**

### **Render to God What is God's**

Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

**Matthew 22: 21**

### **Reward of the Just Stewards**

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me...Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.

**Matthew 25: 34-36, 40**

### **The Trap of Seeking Riches**

For we brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.

**1 Timothy 6: 7-10**

### **Generosity and Eternal Life**

Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.

**1 Timothy 6: 17-19**

### **Stewardship of Hospitality**

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment. Let your life be free from love of money, be content with what you have.

**Hebrews 13: 1-5**

### **Caring for the Hungry**

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have good works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**James 2: 14-17**