

## Stark Road Bi-monthly Bible Reading

Date: January 19, 2002

Subject: Stewardship

### Stewardship Defined (from November 17 Reading)

- 1, A steward is entrusted with managing property, finances, and other affairs not his own.
- 2, As Creator, God is the owner of everything.
- 3, Faithfulness is the paramount feature of Stewardship

### I The Stewardship of Parents Regarding Children

God's claims upon our children are clearly based upon the fact that they owe their existence to Him, and he gives us the opportunity to raise them for Him.

Num 3:13

13 Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD.

Ps 127:3

3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

As previously stated, (Nov,17) the Lord Jesus is the supreme example of stewardship.

### The Pattern He Left Us

Heb 2:13

13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

John 17:24

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

#### a. To love them

Examples rather than commands. John 3:35, Heb 1:2, Heb 2:10, also Gen 25:5

Objective: To raise children for God, who will be able to accept responsibility in the service of God with compassion

#### b. To teach them

The Pattern

Mark 4:33

33 And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.

1 Jn 1:1

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

Deut 6:7

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Lesson: The Lord Jesus assessed the capacity and inclination of his disciples, and differentiated between those whose perception is primarily visual (eye minded, as Peter), auditory (ear minded, as John), and the motor activity type (feeling minded, as Thomas). Mr Mervin Paul in the 1950's

#### c. To train them Eph 6:4

*paideia* - tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction:

Guidance and correction more than impartation of knowledge.

#### d. To admonish them

*nouthesia*- admonition, exhortation

Encouragement through the continuous application of the Word of God

### II The Stewardship in Marriage

#### a, Wives regarding husbands

1, To submit as to the Lord Eph 5:22, Col 3:18

- Recognition of headship

2, To respect and encourage Eph 5:33, Prov 31:23

b, Husbands regarding wives

1, To love their wives

Eph 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

- Sacrificially

Eph 5:29

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

- Nourish - *ektrepho*- to nourish up to maturity

- Cherish - *thalpo* - to foster with tender care

The stewardship entrusted to a husband with respect to his wife, is to sacrificially provide an environment in which his wife will reach her full potential, especially in spiritual gifts and graces. Psalm 144:12, Prov 31:10, Titus 2:10

### III The Stewardship of Children Regarding Parents

a Obedience Eph 6:1, Col 3:20

It is right

It is well pleasing to the Lord

1 Sam 15:22

22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

It is one of the greatest examples which the Lord Jesus left us.

Phil 2:8

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

b. Honor

As Children

How can we honor our parents?

John 8:49

49 Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

- by being faithful to the Word of God which they have taught us.

As Grown-ups

John 19:26-27

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

- by providing the support and care and loving concern which our parents may need in later years.

### IV Stewardship of All Regarding Extended Family

The Special care of Widows

1 Tim 5:3-4

3 Honour widows that are widows indeed.

4 But if any widow have children or nephews (grandchildren), let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

The 'family' is extended to grandchildren when a special need arises in the family in relation to widows. It is clearly the responsibility of the family to meet such a need.

1 Tim 5:8

8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house (related by blood, kindred), he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

The 'family' is extended here to blood relatives.

1 Tim 5:16

16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

When no family is available, then the assembly will assume responsibility for those who are 'widows indeed'.

## **V Stewardship Regarding Brothers and Sisters in the Lord**

### **a. Love one another**

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

1 Pet 1:22

22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Rom 12:10

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

To love someone, agape love, is to seek nothing but their highest good. It is not simply an emotion, but a deliberate conviction of the mind issuing in a deliberate policy of the life. It involves the heart, mind, and will. (Wm Barclay).

Preferring, *proegeomai*- to go before and show the way, to go before and lead, to go before as a leader.

Fervently *ektenos*- earnestly, intensely From a verb which means to "stretch out the hand", thus it means to be stretched out --earnest, resolute, tense.

### **b. Serve one another**

Gal 5:13

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Serve, *douleuo*- to be a slave, serve, to do service.

The Lord taught that this is the way to greatness. Mark 10:44 'chiefest....servant of all'

### **c. Edify one another**

1Thes 5:11

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

### **d. Admonish one another**

Rom 15:14

14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

### **e. Comfort one another**

1Thes 4:18

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

What takes place publicly in the assembly when the gift of the prophet is being used, 1Cor 14:3, is edification, exhortation, and comfort. This can also be true on a personal level, and shows the potential of godly conversation in building up, stirring up, and binding up one another. Malachi 3:16,17

f. Forbearing one another

Eph 4:2

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Lowliness and meekness reflect a humble spirit and gentle attitude, expressing a patient submissiveness to offense, free from malice, and desire for revenge. (Rogers and Rogers)

Longsuffering: patience

Forbearing: Waiting until the provocation is past. (Eadie)

Seen in the Lord Jesus in 1 Peter 2:23 who, 'when he was reviled, reviled not again, when he suffered, threatened not'

g. Forgive one another

Eph 4:32

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Col 3:13

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Forgive *charizomai*- to show oneself gracious, kind, benevolent, to grant forgiveness, to pardon, The importance of this grace seems to be emphasized by the double example of the forgiveness of God, (Eph 4:32) and of the Lord Jesus, (Col 3:13) Their forgiveness is full in extent, and freely and graciously bestowed in its nature.

h. Do not judge one another

Rom 14:13

13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

A censorious spirit is condemned by the Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Matt 7:1-5

i. Bear one another's burdens

Gal 6:2

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Burden *baros*- heaviness, weight, burden, trouble

The word has physical, material, and spiritual applications. (Hogg and Vine).

Whenever a believer is under stress, it provides an opportunity for others to do good. Gal 6:10

j. Greet one another

Rom 16:16

16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

In Acts 28:15, Paul 'saw the brethren, thanked God, and took courage'. A warm, friendly greeting can provide encouragement to each other. This admonition is given several times in Paul's epistles, and would indicate how much value he placed upon it.

