

Principles of *Stewardship*

1. Disciples of Jesus Christ put God first in their lives.
Ex. 20:3, Mt. 10:37-39
2. Money and the things money can buy often stand in the way of our putting God first.
Mt. 6:24, Mark 10:17-27
3. Money is a spiritual issue. How we relate to money and possessions is important to God. Jesus had more to say about money than about almost any other subject. There is great freedom in being able to see money as a resource generously provided by a loving creator God for the sake of the world God loves.
1 Timothy 6:17-19
4. Pastors and elders are spiritual leaders of the congregation. Meaningful changes in the congregational life must begin with the leaders. The congregation will not go where the leaders have not gone first.
1 Chronicles 29:1-20
5. Tithing is a biblical principle that indicates a disciple's willingness to put God first. Ten percent is a significant portion of one's income. Dedicating ten percent to the ministry of the church shows a spirit of obedience to God. Making a commitment to tithe honors God, and God chooses to bless this commitment. God meets us in our struggle to tithe and blesses us along the way.
Malachi 3:10
6. Stewardship is a long-term, year-around commitment. Any significant change in a congregation's habits takes time spent in prayer, study, and growing together. James 5:7-16
7. There is great joy to be found in giving faithfully.
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
8. Learning to live more simple, debt-free lives in the midst of a materialistic culture is pleasing to God. 1 Timothy 6:6-10
9. Stewardship encompasses all aspects of life. It addresses how we spend our time and talents as well as how we spend our money. A steward loves and cares for all of God's creation.
Romans 12:1-2
10. God is a God of abundance, not scarcity. Psalms 104