1 - **7 Key Principles of Stewardship**

**The common characteristics of our stewardship in all it’s forms!**

We’re stewards of…

* Blessings
* Time
* Creation
* Bodies
* Children
* Life
* God’s word
* Church

2 - **1–It’s Universal**

* We can’t say, **“It’s not my job!”**
* “*Lord, are you addressing this parable to us or to everyone else as well*?” (**Luke 12:41; 13:3; Matthew 7:5**)
* Each one has a function in the body of Christ.
**(1 Corinthians 12:18; 1 Peter 4:10-11)**
* We have all been blessed with a stewardship from God and applies to all God has put in our charge.
(**Matthew 25:14, 19**)

3 - **#2-Submission**

* “**S*ubmit therefore to God***”
(**James 4:7; cf., 1 Peter 5:6**).
* Parable of the wicked vine-growers (**Matthew 21:33ff**)
* Will the clay rebel against the potter? (**Isaiah 29:15-16)**
* Will we yield to the potter & make ourselves “***useful to the Master***”? (**2 Timothy 2:19-21).**

4 - **#3 – Trust**

* Our Master is looking for His stewards to be trustworthy and faithful.
* God has “***entrusted*** *his possessions****”*** to us. (**Matthew 25:14)**
* “***it is required of stewards*** that one be found ***trustworthy***…” (**1 Corinthians 4:1-2)**
* “*well done good and* ***faithful slave***”
(**Matthew 25:21**)

5 - **#3 – Trust**

* Are we guilty of prodigality? (**Luke 16:1ff)**
* Will we “***guard***” that which has been entrusted to us? (**1 Timothy 6:20)**
* Can God use us in His service because He’s “***counted me faithful***”? (**1 Timothy 1:12)**
* Who can God count on? **(Luke 12:42)**

6 - **#4 – Thankfulness**

* Do we appreciate what God has put in our care?
* “***I thank Christ Jesus our Lord****… because He considered me faithful,* ***putting me into service***”(**1 Timothy 1:12**).
* Can we articulate the “***great things***” God has done for us? (**Luke 8:39**)
* Let us show “***gratitude***” in reverent service.
**(Hebrews 12:28)**

7 - **#5 – Diligence**

* We can be lost for a lack of diligence.
(**Matthew 25:26)**
* It takes work to be a good steward.
* Diligence to present ourselves approved unto God. (**2 Timothy 2:15)**
* **Diligence to be found by Him** “*in peace, spotless and blameless.* (**2 Peter 3:14)**
* **Titus 2:14**, zealous for good deeds.

8 - **#6 – Courage**

* We can’t be a steward overcome by fear. (**Matthew 25:25)**, “…*I was* ***afraid***…”
* We can’t be afraid to act within the authority of what the Master has specified.
* **Deuteronomy 31:6**, “*Be strong &* ***courageous***...” Cf., **Deut. 20:1-4; Heb. 13:6**.
* Even Paul… (**Acts 18:9)**

9 - **#6 – Courage**

* When it’s time to fight our spiritual battles, we can’t afford to be one of the fainthearted. **Deut. 20:3-8**, (cf., **Judges 7:3**)
* “***Afraid***”– “Phobeo” - to be alarmed or frightened - our English word “phobia”.
* God has not given us a spirit of timidity but of power, love & discipline (**2 Timothy 1:7**)!

10 - **#7 – Accountability**

* Accounts will be settled with Him who has given us this stewardship:
* **Matthew 25:19**, “…*the Master… came and settled accounts with them*”
* **Luke 16:2**, “…*give an account of your stewardship*…”
* This accounting will take place “*before the judgment seat of Christ*”, (**2 Corinthians 5:6-10**)

11 - **#7 – Accountability**

* Will we be found to be a “**good**” steward?
* **1 Peter 4:10-11**, “*As each one has received a special gift,* ***employ it*** *in serving one another,* ***as good stewards*** *of the manifold grace of God*.”
* The accounting for our stewardship will be an individual accounting: **(Romans 14:12)**

12 – **Accountability**

* What do we do if we wish to be forgiven for our lack of stewardship?
* How can we ensure that the settling of our accounts will be something to be longed for?
* Repent of our sins and become obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

13 - **What is Required of Stewards?**

1. **Application**
2. **Submission**
3. **Trust**
4. **Thankfulness**
5. **Diligence**
6. **Courage**
7. **Accountability**