“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”
Luke 12:48
Definitions of Stewardship
Today’s Life Changing Idea

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Today’s Life Changing Idea

It’s Not Yours,

It’s God’s
“You received without paying, give without pay.”

Matthew 10:8
Stewardship...

...what you do with ALL the gifts God gave you
Christian Stewardship Is A Way Of Life¹

Stewardship is what a person does after saying “I believe...” as proof of that belief

¹ Oriented Leadership – Williams and McKibben
“But this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (2 Corinthians 9: 6-8)
“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”  

(Luke 12:48)

“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessings the Lord your God gave you.”

(Deuteronomy 16:17)

Message:

Proportional giving
“On the first day of the week (i.e., Sunday) let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper ....I will send... your gift to Jerusalem” (i.e., the Church center at that time)  
(1 Corinthians 16:2-3)

Message:

Weekly giving

Proportional giving

Giving for the work of the Church
“Command those who are rich... not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches... Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”  

(1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Message:
Basis for link between stewardship, spiritual growth and ultimately salvation
“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much.”

(Matthew 25:14-30)
The question asked our Lord was: “What good deed must I do to have eternal life?”

After mentioning not killing, committing adultery, stealing or bearing false witness, and of course definitely loving one’s mother, father and neighbor, our Lord clearly says:

“If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.”

Are you prepared to go ALL IN?
“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

(Matthew 6:21)
Luke 16:11

“And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth,

...who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?”
“The test as to whether God will bestow heavenly blessings (true riches) on a person is directly related to how that person spends his money. The money we consider our own is actually another man's, that is, belonging to God, or at least to the poor. The Fathers universally see a person's failure to give money to God's work as stealing: ‘nothing less than embezzlement of money belonging to someone else’”¹

¹ This is a direct quote from The Orthodox Study Bible footnote for Luke 16:11 (page 1398) that includes a statement attributed to St. Theophylact of Bulgaria, sometimes referred to as Theophylact of Ohrid.
“The spirit of luke-warmness reigns... We’ve been spoiled for good. How does God still tolerate us?

Today’s generation is the generation of indifference. There are no warriors. The majority are fit for parades and feasts only.... Even people who’ve got something inside have begun to grow cool saying, 'Can I really do anything to change the situation?’

We have to witness our Faith with boldness, because if we continue to remain silent, we’ll have to answer in the end. In these difficult days, each must do what is in their own power. Leave what’s out of their power to God. In this way, our conscience will be clear.”

St. Paisios the Athonite
A Reflection on Christian Stewardship¹

“Do I possess the house in which I live? No, it is only on loan to me from God while I remain in that place.

Do I possess the clothes I wear? No, they are on loan to me until they wear out, or until I give them away to someone in greater need.

Do I possess this body that you see before you? No, it was lent to me by God when I was born, and He will take it back when I die.

Do I possess the mind that is composing the words that I speak? No, that too was lent by God at my birth and will go when I die.”

¹ St John Chrysostom from On Living Simply: The Golden Voice of John Chrysostom
“So do I possess anything?
Yes, I possess the virtues which during my life have grown and flourished within my soul.
Inasmuch as I have grown in faith, I possess faith. Inasmuch as I have grown in gentleness, I possess gentleness.
These things are immortal; they are divine gifts which God will not take away, because He wants heaven itself to be filled with virtue. And, of course, I possess my soul, in which these virtues have their roots.”

¹ St John Chrysostom from On Living Simply: The Golden Voice of John Chrysostom
Merely writing a check doesn’t make you a steward...

...any more than just standing in your garage doesn’t make you a car.
It will get easier once we get it right with the Fourth T...

Tithe
Malachi 3:10
Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.
“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17)

“Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was a priest of the Most High. He blessed Abram ... Then Abram gave him a tithe of all”. (Exodus 14:18-20)

“Behold, I give the children of Levi (the priests) all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for their liturgical service.” (Numbers 18:21)

“Will a man insult God? Yet you have insulted Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we insulted You?’ You keep back tithes and offerings!” (Malachi 3:8)

“Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone” (Matthew 23:23)
“If there was a danger then (in the Old Testament) in omitting tithes, think how great it must be now!”

“Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10%) of one’s annual income as stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese”

Uniform Parish Regulations Article 18, Section 1 of the Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Tithing is the Right Answer (not just in the Old Testament)

See a great article on tithing from the Antiochian Archdiocese website by Fr. Thomas Zell (Editor-in-Chief of AGAIN Magazine and the pastor of St. James Orthodox Mission in Modesto) at:

http://ww1.antiochian.org/node/16719
Tithing Is The Right Answer

~ Tithing should be each person’s ultimate goal (a minimum of 10% Time, Talent and Treasures)

(“You shall tithe...” Deuteronomy 14:22)
Tithing Is The Right Answer

~ Median¹ American “Orthodox” family income by ethnicity =
  Russian $77,841 - Bulgarian $76,861 - Lebanese $75,337 -
  Ukrainian $72,449 - Romanian $72,381 - Greek $72,291 -
  Serbian $70,028 - Yugoslavian $63,765 -

~ 10% of Median Orthodox ($72,300) = $7,230

~ N = your number of Stewardship units/families

~ $7,230 x N = $ (your new stewardship total)

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~ Imagine what ministries and services your Parish could fund if all stewards tithed and contributed $X Million instead of the relatively smaller amounts they are contributing now

How do you get a Tithing program started

1. Start talking, teaching and preaching about tithing to your parishioners
2. Explain the economic impact of tithing to your parishioners
3. Have the Parish leaders, stewardship committee and clergy lead by example
4. Implement a “10 by 10” program
   ~ Contribute 1% in year 1
   ~ Increase contributions 1% for each subsequent year
   ~ Reach a 10% tithe by the 10th year
Percentage Giving

• #1 Best Choice = Tithing (teach the Tithe of Time and Talents and Treasures)

• #2 Best Choice = percentage giving (it’s aspirational)

• The “Round-UP” - get them to round-up their current contribution to the next higher round number percentage, then add 1% more each year thereafter
The Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model
Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model

Institutional

Effective Worship Experience

Worship

Vision

Consensus Vision and Strategic Plan

Engaged Disciples

Disciples

Culture of True Stewardship

Stewardship

Individual
Effective Church Model tab (with detailed presentations covering 3 of the 4 dimensions of an Effective Church)
Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model

- Worship
- Vision
- Disciples
- Stewardship

- Effective Worship Experience
- Consensus Vision and Strategic Plan
- Engaged Disciples
- Culture of True Stewardship

Institutional

Individual
1. Spiritual education
2. Living in H. D. (being a Hero and Disciple)
3. Discovery of Stewardship Calling
4. Prayer
5. Small Groups
6. Orthodox Leadership Development
7. Youth discipleship
# 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices

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Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model

Institutional

Vision

Consensus Vision and Strategic Plan

Effective Worship Experience

Engaged Disciples

Culture of True Stewardship

Worship

Disciples

Stewardship

Individual
7 Consensus Vision and Strategic Plan Practices

1. Leadership buy-in
2. 4-Ps (People, Process, Plan, Perform)
3. Consensus Why, SWOT, Vision, Core Values, Mission and Goals
4. Widespread participation and engagement
5. Transparency, accountability and communication
6. Diligent execution
7. Regular strategic planning
Igniting the Flame

The Stewardship Calling

Tithing Message

“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”
Luke 12:48

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