

**Brave Men Bible Study**  
November 16, 2011  
“Stewardship” as led by Ted Wood

**1. According to the N.T., what is a steward?**

“(Jesus) said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship ...’” **Luke 16:1,2.**

- a. Steward = οἰκονόμος = pron. *oi-ko-nomos*; literally, “house” + “rule”, i.e. “household-manager.” Found 10 times in the NT.
- b. A steward is “a manager, superintendent to whom the head of the house has entrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children not yet of age.
- c. Generally a *freedman* – i.e. a slave released from forced, legal servitude.

**2. What “household” does the steward manages?**

- a. Household = oikēios = “*belonging to a house or family.*”
- b. “... the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.” **1 Timothy 3:15.**
- c. Also called, “the household of faith.” **Galatians 6:10.**

**3. Who are members of God’s household?**

“You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ...” **Ephesians 2:19-20.**

**4. Who are the stewards of God’s household?**

- a. Church “overseers” (leaders, elders).
  - i. “This is how one should regard us (Paul, Apollos, Peter, etc.), as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” **1 Cor 4:1-2.**
  - ii. “An overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach ...<sup>9</sup> He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” **Titus 1:7, 9.**

- b. All members of the household of God are stewards.
  - i. “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” **1 Peter 4:10.**
  - ii. Stewards are those who have received “a gift.” Received = λαμβάνω = “actively lay hold-of, to take or receive.” Opposite of “ask” or “request.”
  - iii. The gifts are meant to “serve one another”, literally *wait at the table*.

## 5. What are the qualities of a steward when serving his gifts.

- a. **Suffering.** “Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin ...” **1 Pet 4:1, 2.**
- b. **Separation** from old behaviors & friends. “They are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you.” **1 Pet 4:4.**
- c. “**Be self-controlled** and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.” **1 Peter 4:7.**
- d. “**Show hospitality** to one another without grumbling.” **1 Pet. 4:8.**
- e. **Persistence & enduring.** “It is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” **1 Corinthians. 4:2.**
- f. “**Wise steward**” **Luke 12:42.**
- g. “Above all, **keep loving one another earnestly**, since love covers a multitude of sins ...” **1 Peter 4:8.**
  - i. “The faithful and wise steward his master will set over his household (literally, “care, healing of his”), to give them their portion of food at the proper time? **Luke 12:42.**
- h. “**In everything God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” **1 Peter 4:11.**

## 6. Stewardship is part of God’s eternal purpose.

- a. “Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” **Ephesians 1:9, 10.**
  - i. “As a plan” = literally, “for the stewardship of the fullness of the times.”
- b. God is stewarding his creation; we, through Christ and by grace, are stewarding God’s household. “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” **John 5:17**