

Stewards: Living a God-Pleasing Life

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – February 20, 2011

Acts 2:41-47

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

42 They **devoted themselves** to the **apostles' teaching** and to the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**. 43

Everyone was filled with awe, and **many wonders and miraculous signs were done** by the apostles. 44 **All the believers were together** and **had everything in common**. 45

Selling their possessions and goods, **they gave** to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to **meet together** in the temple courts. They **broke bread** in their homes and **ate together** with **glad and sincere hearts**, 47 **praising God** and **enjoying the favor of all the people**. And the Lord **added to their number daily** those who were being saved.

We give because...

1. **GOD GAVE**

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

We Love because God Loved!

We Give because God Gave!

God GAVE His only Son.

You and I are made in His image.

And He is a GIVER. He gave Everything.

How can we be Christ-like when we don't give?

Dave Ramsey...

Giving makes us more Christ-like! You can't claim that you are a spiritually mature Christian, when you are not giving. Because a spiritually mature Christian is by definition Christ-like, who by definition is a Giver. When we learn how to be a giver, we are becoming what God has designed us to be.

We give because...

2. **IT'S NOT OUR STUFF, IT'S GOD'S**

One of the first words we learn as children is MINE!

We are not Owners, we are Stewards.

1 Chron 29:14 (King David responds to God's blessings)

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

We give because...

3. **GOD WANTS OUR WHOLE HEART**

Tithing isn't fundamentally about money.

It's about the condition of our heart before God.

Matt 6:21

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

It's not your wallet that God wants, it's your heart.

But until He gets your wallet, He'll never fully have your heart.

Luke 16:13

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Jesus is saying that there's always a clear winner in the God-versus-money battle.

God's call for stewardship smokes out the true winner of the God-versus-money battle in our life.

Who is the winner in the God-versus-money battle in your heart?