

Stewards by God's Design: The Three R's of the Christian Steward

Relationships – Responsibilities - Resources



“God’s team is a team; it is not a collection of individuals but a group working together under the leadership which He gives in pastors and also in others whom the congregation elects and calls to special aspects of the ministry of the Word under the Holy Spirit’s guidance...The goal of such service, as Sunday School teachers and peer counselors, as elders and trustees, as ushers and members of choirs or altar guilds, is to prevent us as individuals and as the whole group from being tossed about by winds of false teaching...”

-Robert Kolb, *Teaching God’s Children His Teaching*. Page 8-10



My Responsibilities in Church

Christians are to frame their thinking for daily life in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have stewardship responsibilities daily in the estates or situations of home, occupation, society, and congregation. Because of Christ we are freed to live as members of the church. Robert Kolb writes, “(The church) exists to bring God’s Word to bear on people’s lives. It preaches the law to call them away from false gods, but it exists primarily to proclaim the Gospel and thus to restore the relationship between God and the broken sinners whom He has brought to perceive their need for Him once again...it exists to bring people to trust in Christ and thus to live out new lives in Him.” *Teaching God’s Children His Teaching*, page 8-9.

Martin Luther identifies several Bible passages that speak to our responsibilities in the church. He first addresses Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers. What do each of the following passages teach us?

- 1 Timothy 3:2-4
- 1 Timothy 3:6
- Titus 1:9

Luther next addresses what the hearers owe their pastors. What do these passages tell us?

- 1 Corinthians 9:14
- Galatians 6:6-7
- 1 Timothy 5:17-18
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- Hebrews 13:17

Luther also mentions others in his Table of Duties.

What does Scripture say to youth in 1 Peter 5:5-6?

What does Scripture say to widows in 1 Timothy 5:5-6?

What does Scripture say to everyone in Romans 13:9 and 1 Timothy 2:1?

What other responsibilities do we steward in the church?

- Luke 4:8
- 1 Peter 3:15-16
- Ephesians 4:12-13
- 2 Corinthians 9:12

When we consider the responsibilities God gives us in the various orders of life, priorities can sometimes be a challenge. Kolb writes, “Generally, we will follow God’s pattern and take care of family needs first of all, but occasionally the urgency of an occupational, societal, or congregational demand will distract us from our fundamental responsibilities at home...we strive to make the best decision possible and give thanks that we live by the forgiving mercy of our calling God.” Page 8-10