

Stewarding the Gift of Freedom . Independence Day 1776

Biblical Stewardship

- “ Oikonomia – Greek for “manager.” Used 9 times in the NT.
- “ The “Doctrine” of Stewardship defines our relationship to God. Under this doctrine, God makes man His co-worker in managing all aspects of life...including politics.

Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25)

“ One is given 5 talents and doubles them. Jesus responds; “Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”

“ One is given 2 talents and doubles them. Jesus responds; ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

“ One is given 1 talent and hides it. Jesus responds; “You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’.”

Loss of life

- “ War for Independence (1775-1783)
- . Total U.S. Servicemembers 1 217,000
 - . Battle Deaths 4,435
 - . Non-mortal Woundings 6,188

Question?

- “ If Jesus were to ask us Christians how we managed the GIFT of political freedom He allowed in the form of the War for Independence in 1776, would we be like the two who managed their talents well? Or, like the unfaithful slave who wants to make excuses about why we weren't good stewards?

God's "four" wills

- “ His sovereign will. He controls all things
- “ His moral will. That which he's revealed to us. The Bible
- “ His decretive will. He acts supernaturally when He pleases.
- “ His permissive will. He allows circumstances to occur in our individual lives.

God's Sovereign Will

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

Psalm 115:3 “Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”

Proverbs 16:9 “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”

Well over 50 other verses speak to God's rule, control, and power over the Universe He created.

God's Moral Will



Dr. Garry Friesen

“God’s revealed commands in the Bible that teach how men ought to believe and live (1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:18; 2 Corinthians 6:14; plus all other direct commands in Scripture “Thou shall not’s”). Where God has spoken in the Bible, the believer must obey. But God’s moral will does not directly address many specific decisions faced by an individual like marrying John or Sam or buying a Honda or a Chevy.”

God's Decretive Will

- “ He spoke and said “let there be light”
- “ He creates Man and Women.
- “ He parts the Red Sea.
- “ He told the Leaders in Jerusalem to set aside Paul and Barnabas

God's Permissive Will

- “ God allowed Joseph's brothers to betray him
- “ God allows us to sin
- “ God allows men to reject the Gospel
- “ God allows bad things to happen to good people

R.C. Sproul – God's permissive will



When God "permits" us to break His perceptive will, [permissive will] it is not to be understood as permission in the moral sense of His granting us a moral right. His permission gives us the power, but not the right to sin.

So What?

“Allow” does not equal “Cause”

- “ Just because God “allows” something to happen does not stipulate that He “causes” things to happen.
- “ Accepting the two as the same leads you to conclude:
 - . God “caused” Hitler, Pol Pot, Stalin to become evil rulers who killed and maimed.
 - . God “caused” and is therefore responsible for the death of 56 million babies here in the American Union

With that in mind...

” On July 4, 1776, God operating in His sovereign will “allowed” [permissive will] a “representative republic” to appear on the planet earth.

Question?

Have we been good stewards or managers of the great gift God allowed us to have?

I don't believe we have.

Proof

- “ We “claim” to be “one nation under God” yet:
 - . We have the blood of 56 million dead babies on our hands.
 - “ Proverbs 6 tells us God hates hands that shed innocent blood.
 - . We have racked up \$20 Trillion in debt and “legally” steal from our paychecks every two weeks.
 - “ God commands us “thou shall not steal” (8th Commandment)

More proof...

- “ 1777 – 1788 – We were a confederation of 13 States
 - . States had control of their boundaries.
 - . No powerful “national” government
- “ 1788 – present: A consolidated “national” government
 - . State boundaries don’t matter
 - . Massively powerful central government.

Question?

“ Based on what we know today, would it have been better to stay under the Articles of Confederation where the State borders mattered? Or to have created the massive “national” and consolidated government that we have today?

Getting our history right

- “ Evangelical Christians tend to:
- . Think the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are essentially built on one another.
 - . Draw a straight line from Plymouth in 1620 to the Constitutional Convention in 1787

The Declaration led to a "nation."

- From 1776 – 1787 it's a historical fact that we were a confederation. This is beyond dispute.
- Even in 1787 it was acknowledged we were a Union.

Preamble to the Constitution

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union,..."

Is it too late?

A resounding NO! But...

1. We must repent that we have not been good stewards of the sacrifices made in 1776-1787.
2. We then must think differently about the problem.

Think like the Pilgrims

- “ The Pilgrims understood they could not thrive in England
- “ The Puritans realized they could not purify the Church of England
- “ Both decided to leave.

How do we leave?

- “ Brexit taught us a lot
- “ Jefferson made it clear in the Declaration what to do:
 - . Alter
 - . Abolish
 - . Throw off

Have we been good stewards?

No

Can we become good stewards and hear; *“well done, enter into the joy of your Master?”*

Yes!