

## LESSON 3: DISCIPLESHIP, STEWARDSHIP, AND TITHING

### DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is modeling and teaching Christians the precepts of the Bible-mainly prayer, doctrine, Christian living, and worship. As Christians we are to model to the covert Christ-like character, encouraging others to surrender themselves to Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:20-21).

There are three main areas or principles in discipleship:

1. Relationships and Mentoring

We are called to build a network of relationships so we can build one another up in the faith through friendship and mentoring. Friendship, knowledge, and experience combined with mentoring are the keys to spiritual growth. Discipleship equals friendship with a Christ-centered focus.

2. Teaching

We are called to teach one another--Christians of all ages and levels-how to live the Christian life. The new Christian needs sound instruction on how to live the Christian life. Although the Spirit will lead, it is our responsibility to learn and grow and then to teach others. The focus must be on the basic first-how to study the Bible, how to pray, how to worship and essential doctrines.

3. Service

We are all called to put our faith into practice. We now must take the relationships, mentoring, and learning, and carry it out in daily life. This is often expressed in service projects and missions. Service is how we live our lives and model His character on a daily basis to those around us. It means reaching out to those in need. We must have a servant's heart (Ephesians 2:10).

*"The earth's is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein."  
Psalm 24:1*

### STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship simply means to manage someone else's property. For the Christian, as Scripture proclaims everything belongs to God, we manage the property of our Lord. Since everything belongs to Christ, we need to have the attitude and view that our things are His things. We are mere lessees of the property, money, relationships, talents, time, and even our lives. That means all that we are and all that we have are not really ours to begin with. They belong to God. So, the duty of the Christian is to learn how to become a responsible steward of our Lord's resources entrusted into our care. It means to manage everything to the best of our abilities for His glory (I Cor. 4:2). A personal commitment to be a Christian manager based on love for Christ is definite and visible. We may have thoughts and feelings

that we can, but Christian stewardship commitment is expressed in our conduct as visible evidence of our conscious choice.

Stewardship commitment must be first in our thoughts and feelings, but it is what we do that finally reveals what we are and how we are personally related to Christ.

Stewardship honors God with all the resources we have in our life. Thus, we should give him gratitude for what he has given us and recognize His sovereignty. We can honor Him with our worship as well as with our material resources and our abilities.

## HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP

### DEFINITION OF HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP:

Holistic stewardship means responsible over all that God has entrusted to us. God is the Creator and owner of all things; therefore, we own nothing! As stewards, we are managers, guards, trustees, and servants of what God chooses to give to us.

- I. TREASURE: GRACE GIVING (2 Cor. 9:6-8)  
The money we earn, and gain belongs to God. God asks for a minimum of 10% or a tithe of your increase. Tithing is a minimum standard established by the law in the Old Testament. Under grace in the New Testament, we are not bound by the law, and must live above the law, therefore, we should be giving above the minimum.' Giving financially to the church supports the church practically, helps to build the Kingdom physically, and makes you obedient spiritually. God's grace abounds toward us — we should abound toward God.
- II. TIME (Matt. 25:1-3), You are accountable for the time that you use. You are a steward of God's time and will be judged for the abuse and wasting of God's time.
- III. TALENTS:(Luke 19:11-27) God gives us gifts and talents to build the Kingdom and others. You are accountable for the gifts that God has given to you. Your gifts are not your own.
- IV. TEMPLE: YOUR BODY (1 Cor. 6:19-20) Our bodies are the dwelling place of God's Spirit. Our bodies were bought at a price, by the death of Jesus, and are not our own. We are stewards and are responsible for maintaining God's temple --our bodies.
- V. TRUTH: GOD'S WORD (2 Tim. 3:10-15) The Word of God is the authoritative source of God's revelation for Christians. It is inspired, infallible, and based upon truth. We are stewards of this truth.

## TITHING

Although Christian stewardship is expressed in several areas such as time, talent, spiritual gifts and tithing, Christians often generously give of their time, talent, and gifts. They have a more difficult time tithing. The word "tithe" means a tenth-one tenth of the annual produce of one's land or its equivalent

in money. A tenth is the standard for giving to the Lord in obedience and gratitude for all he has given to us. Malachi 3: 10 reads, *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, said the Lord of hosts. If I will not open you the windows of heaven. and pour you out blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive."*

Your attitude toward tithing is very important. You should first prepare to give God a tenth and do it with a willing and loving spirit. In 2 Corinthians 9:7. we read "Every man according as he purposeth to his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

There is a direct link to giving and receiving. Two scriptures address this concept. In 2 Corinthians 9:6, it reads, "But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. And in Act 20:35, we find "I have shown you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Before you decide to tithe at Light of the World Christian Church. review the following tithing truths:

1. Tithing is a joy and not a burden.
2. Tithing brings the satisfaction of living for God and others.
3. Tithing expresses love for God and moves us to praise Him for life.
4. Tithing opens the way to spiritual blessings
5. Tithing places God in His rightful position-first in our mind and heart.
6. Tithing puts you in a position where God can truly bless you.
7. Tithing solves money problems by turning them over to God.
8. Tithing makes you a proper steward not just of the 10% but also of the 90%.
9. Tithing makes you responsible to God for all your money.
10. Tithing is an act of faith. You may not be able to see how you can afford to tithe, but God promises to "pour out blessings" upon you if you do. He keeps His promises.
11. Instead of saying you can't afford to tithe, you'll say you can't afford not to tithe.

## **WAYS TO GIVE:**

- In person during service
- On-Line at [lovelwcc.org](http://lovelwcc.org) – select Give Now button.
- Givelify
- Mail contributions to the church office: 4750 N. Michigan Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46228
- Zelle® ([giveLWCC@lightoftheworld.org](mailto:giveLWCC@lightoftheworld.org))
- Contact the church office at 317-254-5922 with any questions on how to give or to confirm your contribution number.

## **QUESTIONS ON STEWARDSHIP/TITHING**

1. What is a steward? (See Luke 16:1)
2. What is Biblical stewardship? (See I Corinthians 4:1-2 and I Timothy 6:20)
3. Who is the creator, owner, and giver of all things? (See Genesis 1: 1 and Psalm 24:1)
4. What is tithing? (See Genesis 14:20 and 2 Chronicles 3:5)
5. To whom does all of our money and other possessions belong? (See I Timothy 6:7, Haggai 2:8 & Psalm 24)
6. What should be your attitude in giving? (See 2 Corinthians 9:7)