

PARTNERS WITH GOD

2 Corinthians 5:14-20

Introduction: "If Jesus Came to Your Home" (Author Unknown)

"If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two. If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored guest, and all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there.., but when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door with arms outstretched in welcome to our heav/nly visitor?

Or would you maybe change your clothes before you let Him in, or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard, and wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud and hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymnbooks out? Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder...if the Savior spent a day or two with you, would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying the things you always say? Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up it's usual pace? And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the book you read? And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go, or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends, or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on, or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things you would do, if Jesus came in person to spend some time with you."

Christians are partners with God in every facet of their lives and that includes "stewardship."

1. As salvation through grace and faith is good news to the lost, so stewardship-living is good news to the saved.
2. Believers become "partners with God" and their whole existence is bound to Jesus Christ. To refuse to accept stewardship of one's whole life is to reject cooperating with Jesus and His mission.
3. Partnership with Jesus involves all of the believer's life - time, talent, family, social life, business, property and his/her finances, money.
4. To be wrong in the concept of "partnership with God" is to be wrong at the very heart of the Christian life.
5. "Stewardship" translates "FAITH" into active service.
6. The four pillars of the doctrine of material things:
 - God is owner, man is the trustee, tithes and offerings are given in acknowledgment of God's ownership and man's stewardship. What remains after tithes and offerings are to be used for God's glory

and man's good.

7. ***"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.." (Psalm 24:1)***
8. Believer's "own" nothing, not even themselves, for they have been bought with a price.
9. No Christian is any more or less a steward than any other Christian. To refuse or be exempted from stewardship is no more a reason than to refuse or be exempt from baptism.
10. Every Christian has entered into a life of service in which all that he/she is or has is put at the disposal of God, the owner, to be used for the purposes of Christ under guidance of the Holy Spirit.
11. Stewardship gives reality to the believer's profession of faith. To fail to be a good steward is to declare that God cannot be trusted.
12. Stewardship involves tithing (a tenth) as a minimum. Christians are not bound by the Old Testament laws but to give less than those under the law is to be unworthy to bear the name of Christ.
13. It is absurd to speak of "being in the Lord's will" and not give the tithe. Jesus said ***"...render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God that which is God's..."***
14. Many earnest Christians are sensitive and knowledgeable of many Christian doctrines but somehow have failed to develop a sensitivity to the single, greatest doctrine for a Christian: TOTAL STEWARDSHIP.
15. ***"All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or the fruit of the trees is the Lord's, it is holy to the Lord..." Leviticus 27:30***
16. Money-centeredness makes Christians worldly minded where instead Christians need to become world-minded.
17. ***"Everyone to whom much is given, of him much will be required; and of him to whom men commit much, they will demand the more..." Luke 12:48***
18. Partnership with God equals TOTAL STEWARDSHIP!
 - Stewardship of life, one's whole existence bound to Christ.
 - Stewardship of influence, which will last past one's earthly life.
 - Stewardship of loyalty, which is the beginning point for total stewardship.
 - Stewardship of daily work, where God must be first and all other things falling into proper place.
 - Stewardship of possessions, which one can't take with him/her, but in a sense, can send them on ahead, one's attitude toward God revealed in his/her attitude toward possessions.
 - Stewardship of spiritual gifts, using them where one walks, works and where needed.
 - Stewardship of the Church is not existing for it's own comfort or burying itself in it's own conceit.

Revelation 3:14-19

CONCLUSION:

1. TOTAL STEWARDSHIP is being Partners with God.
2. If YOU are a Christian, then you are expected to be a Partner with God.