THE MANY PHASES OF STEWARDSHIP

A Steward of Identity

Romans 6: 1-14

DR. RALPH GODFREY SR.
A Steward of Identity

RECAP:

What is stewardship?
The managing of another person’s property, finances, or household affairs.

- relationship (social)
- identity (education)
- gifting (spiritual)
- finances (economically)

*The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof the world and they that dwell there in (Ps 24:1).*
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Identity is how others recognize us by the way we:

- act or the action we take.
- behave in response to external or internal stimulus.

If we are identifying with Christ, then our response to external or internal stimulus must be like Christ.
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EDUCATION SHOWS US OUR IDENTITY

Gal. 3:27... “for as many of us that have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

What does this mean to us?

When you are in clothed with the person of Christ, you take on his nature and his personality.

1Cor. 12:13 NI V, “... we are all baptized by one spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given one spirit to drink.”
In this regeneration, a person’s sinful nature is changed, and he is enabled to respond to God in faith (John 3:3, 5).

*If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away and behold all things are become new* (2 Cor. 5:17).
We have now identified with Christ and found that in him is no racial or cultural distinction (slave or free). There is no social distinction.

All are given one spirit to drink; we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us so that our lives may overflow with the fruit of the spirit.
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WE ARE TO RECKON OURSELVES DEAD TO SIN BUT ALIVE UNTO CHRIST

In water baptism, we were baptized into his death; we were buried with him through baptism. But because he was raised by the glory of the Father, we too were raised to a new life.

We have to keep this old life in the grave.

It has been rendered powerless, so that it can no longer enslave us to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin (Rom. 6:6-7).
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Since you have been raised with Christ set your heart on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. In other words, we are identified with Christ and his purpose (Col. 3:1-10).
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You have received power to put to death sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which are idolatry; you now have the power to live a clean life.

He further states to rid yourselves of these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and fifthly language from your lips. Remind yourselves not to lie to each other anymore, because you have taken off the old man and put on the new, which is renewed in knowledge in the image of the creator (Ref. Eph. 4:20-24).

According to 2 Cor. 3:18, we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
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SAMENESS

As stewards, we understand that identity also means sameness. That is sameness in every possible circumstance.

Sameness starts with having the same attitude that Christ had about things. In fact (Eph.4:23NIV) tells us that we are to be made new in our attitude, because our attitude determines our approach to life.

It also determines our relationship with people.
Attitudes can determine your success or failure in life; attitude can turn problems into a blessing or into cursing.

Good attitudes away cause us to see the good in what others do, as he is so are we in this life.

Christ's attitude was to do the will of his father by keeping the Father's word.

He said in John 15:10, ... “If you keep my commandments you shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father’s commandment, and abide in his love.”
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LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU THAT WAS IN CHRIST JESUS

To have the same attitude of Christ you must store up his word in your heart.

You cannot manage something you do not have.

*But keep my commandment in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring prosperity* (*Prov. 3:2*).
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Because a heart of peace give life to the body (Prov. 14:30).

Above all else guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life. If we store up good words in our heart, our words and actions will be good.

Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks (Prov. 4:23).

Also, Matt.12:34; Mark 7:21
As a steward over the household in which we live, we know that we belong to God.

So we must be careful how and what we do in this house, because the Master can return any day to his house (Matt. 24:48-51).
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Our responsibility as a steward is to manage the house well, to educate ourselves to everything about the house.

A lot of our houses are out of focus because of mismanagement. We need training and discipline in our lives to prepare for the destiny that God has laid out for us.

The scripture says: Be not conformed to this world: however, be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
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To manage God’s house you need a transformed mind. This can only happen as you renew your mind daily in the word of God.

...“Thy word have I hid within my heart that I might not sin again you (Prov. 119:11).
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Remember we are managers.
It is our job to manage our lives well by identifying with Christ.
Let us strive to be like Christ and fulfill God’s desire to have many sons, Christ being the first fruit!
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