

Faithful...

Jesus was the faithful companion. He was faithful to his Father's will; true to his followers; and loyal to his mission to the end.

Christian stewards are faithful. They recognize the brotherhood and sisterhood of all people and are trustworthy, loyal, dependable and devoted. Good stewards follow through on their commitments.



Creative...

Jesus was a steward of creation. He knew the value of work, spending the first 30 years of his life working with his hands as a carpenter. He did not waste the resources of the earth. Even after he fed the multitude, he gathered the leftovers and filled seven baskets.

When God created the earth, He put us here to care for it. Christian stewards are sensitive to the environment and resources of this earth. They are respectful of all human life and recognize that we are co-laborers with Almighty God in the on-going work of creation.

A checklist for Christian Stewards...

- * How much time do I set aside for prayer each day?
- * What is my motivation for giving of my time, talent and treasure? Is it for recognition or reward? Or is it out of gratitude? Do I take the time to personally say "Thank You" to those who serve me?
- * What portion of my time, talent, and treasure do I give to the Church, my family, my community?
- * When I have choices to make in my own life, how do I make the distinction between my "wants" and my "needs"? Do I include prayer in my own decision-making process?
- * Have I used my God-given gifts and talents wisely, discreetly and carefully?
- * Can my family, friends, Church and community count on me when I make a commitment?
- * What am I doing to promote respect for life, stewardship of the environment, and wise use of the natural resources of our earth?



Characteristics of a Christian Steward

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Seven Habits of Highly Faithful Christian Stewards

Seven Habits of Highly Faithful Christian Stewards...Look to Jesus as the model



Prayerful...

Jesus went up the mountain to pray...looked up to heaven and prayed...and in his final prayer, "Father forgive them for they

know not what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

St. Paul reminds us to pray unceasingly, but Jesus also set aside time for prayer. As Christian stewards we are called to give a percentage of our time to God in prayer. Some of our gifts of prayer might include:

- Rosary
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Novenas
- Praying with Sacred Scripture
- Meditative Reading
- Centering Prayer
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Common Catholic Prayers

Grateful...

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "I thank you for hearing me." (John 11:41) He took the loaves and fish and gave thanks...He took the bread and giving thanks...

Christian stewards act out of gratitude. They recognize that all good things come from God and there is a need to give back in thanksgiving. Christian stewards are motivated by gratitude to share their time, talent and treasure with others for the sake of the Kingdom.

Generous...

Jesus gave his whole life for us. His teachings were challenging—"There is still one thing left



for you: sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come,

follow me." (Luke 18:22) God the Father gave us His only Son. God will never be outdone in generosity.

Christian stewards are generous with their time, talent and treasure. They strive to live the words of the Prayer for Generosity:

*Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,
teach me true generosity. Teach me to
serve you as you deserve. To give
without counting the cost, to fight
heedless of wounds, to labor without
seeking rest, to sacrifice myself without
thought of any reward, save the
knowledge that I have done your will.
Amen.*

~St. Ignatius of Loyola

Discerning...

Jesus saw things through the eyes of God. He saw the world and all that is in it as the work of the Father. He made choices that reflected his heavenly Father's will.



Christian stewards are in the habit of prayerfully discerning God's will. When faced with choices, the good steward will look to the Holy Spirit for guidance. Discerning Christian stewards will prioritize their commitments of time, talent and treasure based on the direction of the Spirit and the will of God. They will distinguish between their "wants and needs" in making decisions.

Responsible...

Jesus recognized at the age of 12 that he had a job to do..."to be about my Father's business." (Luke 2:49) He preached about responsibility in the parable of the talents, the wedding banquet, the two sons, the ten virgins.

A Christian steward recognizes that some day we will all be held accountable for what we have done with the gifts God has given us. Have they been used prudently? Wisely? Discreetly? Carefully?