



How does Christian Stewardship relate to Discipleship and Evangelization?

You've been hearing about these concepts a lot lately, and we'd like to offer some insights into them and how they are related.

Disciple: a student and follower of a mentor or teacher who accepts and assists in spreading the mentor's theories, teachings, or doctrines.

Christian Disciple:

One who responds to Christ's call, and who follows and shapes one's life in imitation of Him. This requires that we read the Word of God and allow it to form our lives. Scripture says that a Christian disciple:

- Loves God with heart, soul, and mind
- Loves neighbor as self
- Is a good Steward of the Lord's gifts
- Spreads the Good News of Jesus Christ

Our Church teaches that "The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it."

Steward: a person who cares for the property of another while acting on behalf of the owner, and is accountable and responsible for the property.

Christian Stewards:

- acknowledge God as the Creator and Owner of all, and see themselves as the caretakers of all God's gifts to them;
- express gratitude through prayer, worship, offering, and action;
- thank God for all their blessings by returning to God a portion of the many gifts (time, talent, and treasure) that they have received;
- reject the notion that they must "have it all," and instead focus on intentional, planned, and proportional sharing of all that they have received from God.

Christian Stewardship is an important part of living as a disciple of Christ.

Evangelization ~ the essential mission of the Church. As Jesus said at the end of the Gospel of Matthew: "*Go and make disciples of all nations.*" To evangelize means to bring the good news of the Gospel to all we encounter by teaching, being channels of the gift of grace, reconciling sinners with God, and perpetuating Christ's sacrifice in the Mass. The fruit of evangelization is new **disciples** of Jesus.

So how are discipleship, stewardship, and evangelization related?

To be a **disciple** of Christ, we must live as He did and we must practice **Christian Stewardship** in response to His gifts. Parishioners share their time, talent, and treasure in joyful and grateful recognition that every blessing and gift we have is from God. These resources shared with the parish are critical for faith formation, advocacy, outreach, liturgy, hospitality, and virtually all of our ministries. By sharing these gifts, you enable the Church to develop and implement **evangelization** programs within our parish and our community.

In Summary

Discipleship calls us to be good stewards of all that God has given to us, and **stewardship** is necessary to foster **evangelization**.