

STEWARDSHIP - IN ACTION

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Will Our Children Be Stewards? (Part II) (continued from Sept. S-IA)

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Will our children be stewards? The answer depends largely on the level of conversation that we foster in and through our faith communities. The simple decisions that children make about money may seem to have minimal, if any, bearing on others. However, the cumulative micro-economic influence of children does sway macro-economic outcomes. We now live in a global marketplace. Children's money choices and their influence on adults' money choices ripple around the world to influence issues such as economic sustainability, quality of life, economic justice, free trade agreements, and other relevant topics.

The church's frequent posture of silence on most money conversations, except ones related to the church budget, may inadvertently imply a lack of relevance between money and faith or even an acceptance of current personal financial practices. However, numerous people are concerned about creating future generations of stewards. Church leaders, Christian educators, and parents, alike, want children to adopt a holistic connection between their faith and their values about money. Simply stated, we want children's money choices to reflect Christian values. Yet how many adults have perfected this habit? Surely fewer than are willing to admit it! But do not lose hope. If we help children discover the interdependence between faith and money, then we may help multiple generations of people in some unexpected ways.



Materialism is a means to an end, but
the end is frequently not generous,
sacrificial giving"

So where do we begin? Here are some possible starting points for people within a faith community:

- Begin by examining your own personal spending plan. (<http://www.gbod.org/stewardship/article.asp?id=45597>)
- Provide lifestyle values in contrast to the hyperconsumer culture. Visit [Birthdays Without Pressure](#)
- for some ideas. (<http://birthdayswithoutpressure.com>)
- Teach children Jesus' messages about money and possessions.
- Model Christian stewardship.
- Adopt a God-honoring lifestyle by placing God as your top priority in life.
- Set television watching limits and discuss product placements.
- Set limits on computer time, review the websites and chat rooms that children are surfing, position computers in frequent family gathering areas.
- Encourage children to participate in the offering and other charitable giving opportunities.
- Be involved in community outreach, service projects, and mission programs.
- Establish a clear delineation between "wants" and "needs."
- Enable teenagers to be [financially literate](#) and especially to understand the importance of giving and saving and the impact of consumer debt. (<http://www.jumpstart.org/index.cfm>)

Stewards Going Green



Part of being a responsible Christian steward is tending to the earth and the natural resources therein. Here are some quick and easy tips that are very doable for going green that you can begin doing right now!

Use the dishwasher. It is more energy and cost efficient to do a full machine of dishes than to wash the same amount of dishes by hand.

Replace your showerhead with one that sprays 1.5 gallons per minute. This slight modification “could save as much as 14,600 gallons of water per year-especially if you limit your showers to 10 minutes.”

Fix leaky faucets. “One drip per second from a leaky faucet or pipe can waste up to 5 gallons of water a day-and 1,800 gallons a year.”

Purchase certified coffee. Rainforest Alliance Certified coffee is “grown in a way that preserves the ecosystem.”

Use reusable cloth bags when you shop.

Fill your home with air-purifying plants, such as English ivy.

Recycle your old cell phones, digital cameras, computers, etc.

Replace your old incandescent light bulbs with energy and cost efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

Purchase eco-friendly products ranging from organic foods to clothing.

Eat vegetarian once a week. Vegetarian meals, from growth to consumption, are more energy efficient than meat-based meals.

Spare trees by replacing paper filters in your coffeemaker with reusables.

Use a laptop rather than a desktop computer; laptops use less energy.

Print documents on both sides of the paper. Use “misprints” and “extra pages” for scrap paper, memos, etc.

Unplug appliances when not in use. Purchase and consume locally grown produce.

Buy a water filter and drink tap, rather than bottled, water.

Use a reusable aluminum water bottle rather than bottled water.

Tips adapted from:
1-3 cnn.com
#4-14 MSN Lifestyle
#15-18 worldwatch.org

Stewardship based articles or news
can be sent to:

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