

Whoever finds his life will  
lose it, and whoever loses  
his life for my sake will  
find it.  
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching  
Guard the sharing

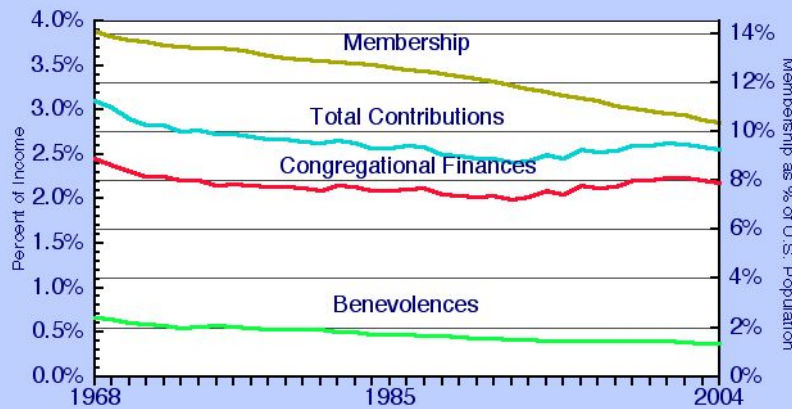
# Male Call

June 1, 2007

## Stewardship—The State of Christian Stewardship—Part III

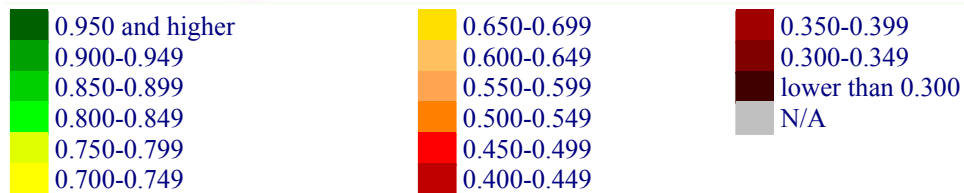
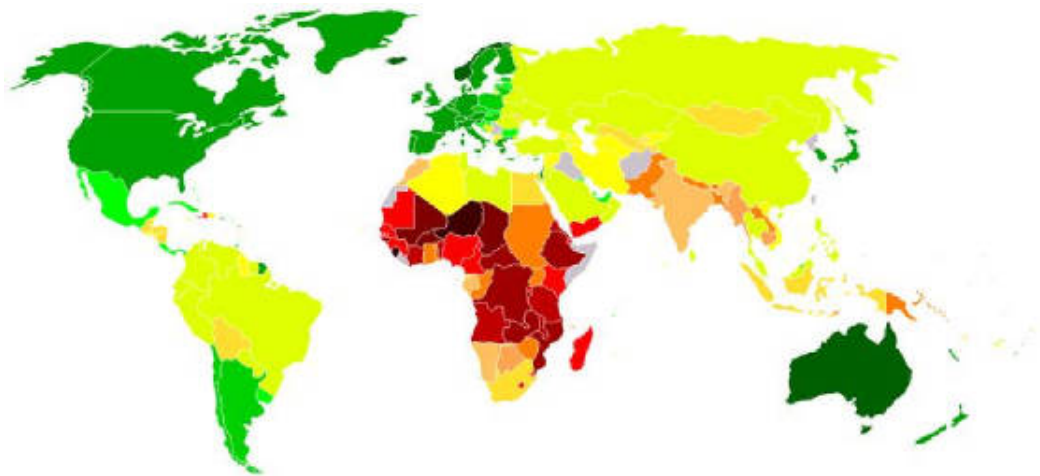
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|----------------|---|
| 6:00 –<br>6:05 | 1) Coffee & Donuts<br><br>2) Opening Prayer   |
| 6:05 –<br>6:25 | 1) Previous challenges:<br>a) Take 5: [1) 5 min reading the Bible, 5 min in meditation, 5 min in prayer; 2) praying with your family]?<br>b) Graphing your money and time usage?<br><br>2) Review<br>a) All belongs to God (Gen 1)<br>b) We are stewards of ALL that God has created: material things and ourselves.<br>c) Possessions are mentioned three times more than love in the Bible. Stewardship is God’s way of raising people; we should beg to participate (2Cor 8:1-5)<br>d) Everything must be secondary to seeking Jesus (Phil 3:7-11)<br>e) You will find you cannot “do” stewardship on your own. God must do the work in us.<br>f) Trust that God will provide (Mt 6:33)<br><br>3) How are we doing in stewardship of our finances?<br>a) All of America<br><b>Average cash gifts (U.S. Households)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consumer Units/Households...116,282,000</li> <li>• Average Income, after taxes...\$52,287</li> <li>• Cash to Churches/Religious Group...\$565 (1.08%)</li> <li>• Cash to Other Charities...\$158 (0.30%)</li> <li>• Cash to Educational Institutions...\$46 (0.09%)</li> <li>• Gifts of Stocks, Bonds, etc...\$25 (0.05%)</li> <li>• Total Cash Gifts...\$794 (1.50%)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(<a href="http://www.emptytomb.org">www.emptytomb.org</a>--U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for Year 2004)</i></p> b) Church-goers |

Per Member Giving as a Percent of Income/Membership as Percent of U.S. Population, 1968-2004



Source: empty tomb analysis; YACC adjusted series; US BEA empty tomb®, inc. 2007

- c) 4Cs
  - i) Using estimated income data for our area, 4Cs giving is at 2% - 3% of total income.
  
- 4) How are we doing in stewardship of our stuff?
  - a) “The average American house size has more than doubled since the 1950s; it now stands at 2,349 square feet...the move toward ever large homes has been accelerating for years. Consider: Back in the 1950s and '60s, people thought it was normal for a family to have one bathroom, or for two or three growing boys to share a bedroom.”
    - (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5525283>)
  
- 5) How are we doing in stewardship of our time?
  - a) Average adult daily activity (over 15 years old)
    - Watching television—2hr 35 min
    - Participating in sports, exercise, and recreation—18 min
    - Telephone calls, mail, and e-mail—11 min
    - Religious and spiritual activities—7 min
    - (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/atus.nr0.htm>)
  
- 6) What’s up with the World?
  - a) World map indicating Human Development Index (HDI) of UN member states, 2003. The HDI measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development:
    - A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth.
    - Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weight) and the combined primary, secondary, and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (with one-third weight).
    - A decent standard of living, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita at purchasing power parity (PPP) in USD.



United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report, 2003.

#### 7) Barriers to financial stewardship

- a) Lack of motivation to give away their hard-earned money because the church has failed to provide a compelling vision for how the money will make a difference in the world. They can find other uses for their money and are not excited about simply handing money over to a church.
- b) See their giving as leverage on the future. They withhold money from the church because they do not see a sufficient return on their investment.
- c) Do not realize the church needs their money to be effective. Their church has done an inadequate job of asking for money, so people remain oblivious to the church's expectations and potential.
- d) Ignorance of what the Bible teaches about our responsibility to apply God's resources in ways that affect lives.
- e) Selfishness

<http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdate&BarnaUpdateID=187>

#### 8) How now shall we live?<sup>1</sup>

- a) Declare who is Lord of our life (Mt 6:21, 24)
- b) Understand what is expected of us (Mt 25:14-30, Mk 12:43-44; 2Cor 8, 9)
- c) Count our blessings (Ps 40:5)
- d) Give to God first—Just do It!
- e) Give according to our means (2Cor 8:8-12, 1Tim 5:8)
- f) Give cheerfully (2Cor 9:6-8)
- g) Give regularly (1Cor 16:1-2)

<sup>1</sup> *God & Your Stuff*; p 54-64

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 6:25 –<br>7:00 | <p>Interaction and prayer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) One use of possessions is a “heart test.” For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mk 6:21). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What are your treasures?</li> <li>b) Where are they?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) Paul tells us to test ourselves (2Cor 13:5). How are you using God’s possessions of which you are the steward as tools, tests, and trademarks?</li> <li>3) What are some concrete ways in which we can be good stewards of God’s possessions?</li> <li>4) What are barriers preventing you from becoming a good steward?</li> </ol> |
| 7:00           | Closing Prayer   |

Further reading:

- The *Bible*
- Willmer, Wesley K., *God & Your Stuff*
- Cushman, Ralph Spaulding, *The Message of Stewardship*
- Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*
- Piper, John, *don’t waste your life*
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*
- Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*