

Message Series: Pursuit of Godl-Y-ness

Message Title: Stewardship

Key Scripture:

1 Timothy 6:17

Message Summary

The first and difficult message of stewardship is that we don't actually own anything! Everything we have is from God's abundant supply! The tree of life in the garden of Eden symbolises the place of God's great provision; eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil symbolises our lack of trust in our creator God and our desire to define what is right and wrong in our own eyes. We are called time and time again to come back to this place; to reconnect with the God of all supply and partner with him in his creative work. This is stewardship! The Apostle Paul helps put legs on this notion, giving us guiding principles in his letter to young Timothy. The invitation is extended - not to put our hope in the fragility of wealth, nor to be arrogant because of it, but rather to put our hope in the God who richly provides everything for our enjoyment!

How does applying this message affect us?

Are you an owner or a steward?

Think about the things that you have - do you view them as something you own or something that you are looking after? Consider your treasures, your time and your talents.

Plastic tat!

The pursuit of riches is so uncertain! What things have you pursued that have ended up in that metaphorical drawer of plastic tat!? What have you learned through these experiences and how will this affect you moving forwards?

What examples in your life have you partnered with God's creative work?

Paul uses the word 'apolausis' for enjoyment - when you look back on your life, what things have you enjoyed that have had a lasting legacy? - Do you think God enjoys the same things as you? Are there things moving forwards that you want to get involved in/pursue - how does God fit with these things?

A Generous Host

Jesus was thoroughly connected to God the Father. It was a relationship that he continually pursued and strengthened. It was in rooting his life in the generous provision of the Father that not only was he securely accepted, but it impacted how tightly he clung to everything he had - even his own life. The question for us is how well are we connected to the provision of our generous host and how does this impact not just my own life but how generously I live with community around me.