Christian Stewardship
1 Cor 4:1-2

Introduction:
A. A steward was a servant that had his master’s estate entrusted to him to manage.
   1. He had full use and control of the estate as manager, but not as owner.
   2. He usually was rewarded according to how wisely he managed the estate.
   3. He had to remember than what was in his possession was not his own.
B. As Christians, we are given several stewardships of things that really belong to God.
   1. It is required that we faithfully manage these possessions (v. 2)
   2. It is required that we use them according to His will and not ours – they are his, not ours.

Discussion:
I. The Stewardship of the Gospel (1 Cor. 4:1)
A. The “mystery” here is “hidden wisdom” of God (cf. ch. 2:7).
   1. The thoughts, plans, etc. of God hidden from human wisdom.
   2. The hidden wisdom is revealed through the gospel revelation.
B. We are but the stewards of that revelation – not the owners.
   1. We must faithfully dispense it according to God’s will (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).
   2. We must faithfully defend it (Phil. 1:7, 17; Gal. 2:5).
   3. We must faithful guard its purity (Gal. 1:6-10)

II. The Stewardship of Our Goods.
A. There is a sense in which our goods are our own. (cf. Acts 5:4).
B. There is another sense in which all things belong to God (1 Cor. 10:26,28).
C. The Christian maintains possession (as a steward), but the title belongs to God (Luke 14:33)
   1. As a steward, he must not waste the Lord’s goods (cf. Luke 16:1)
   2. As a steward, he must use it wisely (Parable of the talents).

III. The Stewardship of Our Bodies (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
A. “It my body, I can do with it what I want to” – not if you are a Christian!
   1. Our bodies belong to God.
   2. We are just stewards or caretakers of it.
B. The Christian must treat his body with respect – it does not belong to him.
   1. It is the temple (dwelling place) of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19).
   2. It is presented as a living sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1).
   3. It must not be used for sin (1 Cor. 6:13-18; Rom. 6:13)
   4. It must not be neglected or abused (Col 2:23 - see asv).
C. Should one wilfully do anything to weaken or destroy the body?

IV. The Stewardship of Our Spirits (1 Cor 6:19-20)
A. We must feed our spirits with spiritual food (1 Cor. 10:3 NKJ cf. 1 Pet. 2:2)
B. We must facilitate spiritual growth and development (cf. 2 Pet. 3:18).
C. We must facilitate its ultimate salvation (Heb. 10:38, 39).

Conclusion:
A. What kind of steward are you?
B. Why not become a servant or steward of God by obeying the gospel today.
C. If you have become an unfaithful steward, why not return.