

Essential Commitments

**Part Two:
Stewardship**

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Essential Commitments

Acts 2:41-47

- a description of the first community of believers in Jesus (paradigm)

**Essential Commitment #1:
Church Membership**

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Essential Commitments

#2: Stewardship

- all of life is an entrustment to us by God to manage for His interests
- God owns everything – we are managers
- Our management is “others-directed”

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Essential Commitments

#2: Stewardship

1. Serving Others

- God saves us in order to place us into service
- God uniquely gifts every believer for the edification of the body

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Essential Commitments

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

– 1 Peter 4:10

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Essential Commitments

“For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them accordingly...”

– Romans 12:4-6

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Essential Commitments

“Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

– 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

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Essential Commitments

Are you being a good steward of God’s grace and gifts by serving others?

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Essential Commitments

#2: Stewardship

2. Financial Giving

- As stewards, we are to make wise investments of God’s resources
- We are to invest eternally by giving it away!

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Essential Commitments

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.

Sell your possessions and give to charity; make for yourselves purses that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys.”

– Jesus
(Luke 12:32-33)

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Essential Commitments

What should I give to?

1. To the poor and those in need within the church (Rom. 15:26-27)
2. To the ministries of the local church (1 Tim. 5:17-18; Gal. 6:6)
3. To missionaries (1 Cor. 9:7-14)

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Essential Commitments

How much should I give?

1. Give in proportion to His blessing
 - Enough for me, abundance for others
 - Fix your standard of living, and give the rest away

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Essential Commitments

How much should I give?

2. Start with the principle of the tithe

- the minimal starting place of giving
- an act of trust in God that opens us up to the blessing of abundant giving