

Holistic Stewardship

Scott Rodin is president of Rodin Consulting Inc. which specializes in helping Christian non-profit organisations take a biblical approach to strategic planning, board development and capital campaign fundraising. He describes himself as a conservative evangelical. In his blog article “The Seven Deadly Sins of Church Stewardship” he makes some important points about proper stewardship of our resources. He introduces what he calls Holistic Stewardship, where ‘holistic’ means “whole” or “everything concerning”. He writes:

“Holistic stewardship begins with God’s intention for creation and the gracious decision to create humanity in God’s image.

It is built further on the central Christian tenet that the God in whose image we have been created is the God we know in Jesus Christ, and the God that has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ is a Triune God. We were created to bear the image of a God who is, in the divine nature, community, fellowship, and interdependence. Simply put, you and I were created for relationship.

In Genesis we find that we were created for whole relationships that reflect the image of God on four levels; 1) intimate relationship with God, 2) balanced relationship with our self, 3) loving relationships with our neighbor, and 4) custodial relationship with creation.

As Adam and Eve lived out those four levels of relationship they reflected the image of God, and so do we. In the fall of humanity into sin we lost our relationships on all four levels. We must understand the profound and devastating effects of sin on all four levels if we are to embrace a holistic definition of stewardship.

Praise be to God that the restoration Christ accomplished through his own blood was even more holistic than the affect of the fall. In short, all that was lost in the fall was fully and completely restored in Christ!

As a result, we are stewards of our redeemed and restored relationships on all four levels. The holistic image of the godly steward then is reflecting our creator God through whole, redeemed relationships on all four levels, glorifying God, and practicing in each the ongoing work of the steward.”¹

Proper stewardship of what God has given us is not just about money – it concerns everything we are responsible for. We have to start thinking holistically about how we look after what we’ve been entrusted with, because church leaders and teachers have not given us adequate training in this matter.

The parables of Jesus regarding the supervision of his possessions that are in our care are *sometimes* about money, but not always. The parable of the Minas² and the parable of the Talents³ are financial, but the parables of the Wicked Tenant Farmers⁴ and His Sudden Coming⁵ concern being responsible for total management.

Proper Kingdom stewardship of our resources includes time, energy, possessions, houses, vehicles, education, employment, as well as money. Kingdom Sons must operate appropriately in these areas as the Spirit leads.

1 – Scott Rodin (2015) “The Seven Deadly Sins of Church Stewardship” [Blog email: 6th May 2015] (<http://thestewardsjourney.com/the-seven-deadly-sins-of-church-stewardship>)

2 – Luke 19:11-26

3 – Matthew 25:14-29

4 – Mark 12:1-9; Luke 20:9-16

5 – Mark 13:34

Read Scott's article to get the full benefit of his understanding:
(<http://thestewardsjourney.com/the-seven-deadly-sins-of-church-stewardship>)

Note: Being in the institutional system, Scott's article contain some religious references that you'll have to ignore when you read his article.

Laurence

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