



Depth Perception™

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Stewardship theology is improving and its depth becoming more profound. Still, the North American Christian community seems stuck somewhere between *God wants you rich and give it all away or you are a bad person*. Interestingly, both sentiments start with the understanding that God owns it all and that the believer should obey God. They also both use the same lexicon of scriptures to make their point. Obviously they missed something.

Making matters worse, seminary communities remain resistant to put stewardship at the ministry preparation core. When taught at all, it tends to be little more than recycled Marxism. Those who raise funds for ministry continue to equate stewardship with a fundraising that achieves its goals. Pastors and church committees continue to refer to stewardship as promising some money towards the congregation's budget. They are missing something too.

Recent voices like Gary Moore and Lynn Miller, and underutilized voices like Waldo Werning, have laid the

foundation for a stewardship theology we should be embracing:

1. God is working to bring all things under one head – Jesus Christ.
2. We are privileged to participate in God's grand project.
3. All of the resources at our disposal (money, time, talent, relationships, creation, possessions, etc.) are granted by God to use as tools as we participate.

The difference between the non-helpful voice and the three points just listed is

this: the non-helpful view begins with the material world to make sense of the spiritual. The three points listed above begin with the spiritual in order to bring perspective and purpose for our short-lived material existence.

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More about this next time

-- mark l. vincent