



DESIGN GROUP International™



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Stewardship as a Lifestyle

Dr. John R. Frank's latest book [Stewardship as a Lifestyle: Seeking to Live as a Steward and a Disciple](#), is just now being released by Design Group International. In this issue we excerpt his comments on the comprehensiveness of the call to be a steward on p.18ff

"The bible gives us examples of the wise stewardship of time, talent, treasure, but we can go much further in a holistic stewardship model. One example of the many additional arenas is the resource of touch. Our ability to touch someone's life with a handshake, a hug, or a pat on the back is something we give to another person. Another is our spiritual environment, not just how we build and care for it in nurturing our own soul, but how it provides benefit for others.

"Another clear item from the bible is that the time, talent and treasure list is not a menu from which we choose. In other words, if you give time, it does not mean you now avoid giving treasure. This has been misused in many giving policies developed by churches and parachurch organizations. Some may believe that if you give time as a volunteer then you do not need to be a financial donor to the organization. While all gifts of time, leadership, and volunteering are appreciated, there is no measurement system set up in scripture to allow of gift of one type to cancel the need to grow in one's holistic stewardship

". . . .Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is a daily following of him and his ways. In Luke's gospel a follower of Jesus is instructed to take up his cross and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23). Taking up the cross is choosing to follow Jesus' teachings rather than those of the world. Stewardship decisions follow this same journey throughout each day. This is not a one-time giving of a financial gift or being kind to someone on occasion. It is cultivating a daily concern to use one's life, talents and resources in the world in which one lives, bringing honor and glory to God."

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