

## CHAPTER 5

### PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP IN DAILY LIFE

While the Resource Handbook focuses mainly on helping congregations, it acknowledges the strong connection between personal and congregational stewardship. Stewardship is a whole life matter.

Within a congregation, stewardship growth cannot happen unless the individual members grow in their faith and personal stewardship. Personal growth requires commitment and stewardship understanding as a whole life matter. Congregational stewardship education programs should be evaluated for their effectiveness in producing personal growth.

Stewardship is certainly about money. But that is the minor part. The major part of stewardship is about how we allocate every bit of the life energy and time we are given. There are clear stewardship implications to every item on the list below and to many, many more. In fact, there is absolutely nothing about life that does not have stewardship implications.

#### PERSONAL CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT:

- priorities
- accountability
- using our talents
- smart living
- trusting
- surrender
- money
- sharing
- generosity
- keeping promises
- thankfulness
- mindfulness
- receiving
- transformation
- commitment
- marriage
- our thinking
- shepherding
- our use of time
- worship
- caring
- managing
- growth
- relationships
- saying yes to God
- care of creation
- estate plans
- honoring God
- health
- choosing service over self-interest
- giving
- balance
- attitudes
- experiencing joy
- ownership
- accepting God's promises
- sacrifice
- vocation
- thinking globally and acting locally
- serving

Seeing stewardship with new eyes requires thinking about it in personal terms as it affects every dimension of life.