

## CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS

## A Song of the Steward

I Corinthians 13, Paraphrased by Lois Lynn

If I am entrusted with great resources but do not surrender self-interest, I am only a user, not a steward.

If I have the gift of administration and can manage large enterprises but have not the spirit of a steward, I am nothing.

If I give 10% tithe and offerings too and do not practise good stewardship, I gain nothing.

A steward is reliable; a steward is dependable; a steward is faithful and worthy of the trust given him. A steward is not acquisitive, not covetous, not possessive. He does not seek his own advancement but is given increased responsibility as he proves his worth.

A steward is not owner of property but caretaker of the Creator's resources. He nurtures and protects the great treasures of creation; husbandry is his calling. He serves the One who owns all with devotion and enthusiasm. His works bring praise to his Master; he is steward of the reputation of God.

He is not self-serving but rejoices in opportunities to serve. He is not selfcentered but gives honour to others. Possessiveness gives way to benevolence; he takes joy in sharing the works of his hands. Happy is the steward who knows his value in the kingdom.



A good steward is of solid worth. But where there are currencies, they will be devalued; where there are stock markets, they will crash; where there are pyramid schemes, they will collapse; where there are commodities, they will cease. For true value does not lie in the riches of this world.

When I lived to please myself, I coveted material possessions; when I surrendered my life and works to the Master, I put my own interests behind me. My reason for living is to manage well that with which I am gifted. Time, talent and treasure are only mine for a purpose and I am accountable for their use.

Now, to us is given the privilege of serving; then we shall be elevated to rule and reign with Christ. Now, we are entrusted with a small portion; then we shall be endowed with all the riches of the new heaven and new earth.

And now these three please the Master: devotion, benevolence and stewardship. But the good steward carries out the purposes of God.