A FORM OF STEWARDSHIP TO PROMOTE GOD’S MISSION

The Bible doesn’t talk specifically about endowments. In fact, it warns against “building bigger barns” – setting your goals on worldly possessions rather than on God.

But the Bible also emphasizes stewardship. It teaches us that our talents and our possessions are blessings that are not for our exclusive benefit, but to be used for God’s purposes.

Likewise, an endowment fund should be viewed as a form of stewardship to promote God’s mission rather than as a way to stockpile money.

The Bible teaches us that money is our servant and not our master, because only God is worthy of our worship. This warns us not to make an icon out of endowments.

The Bible also teaches us that God’s blessings extend to future generations and emphasizes our role to build on what we have inherited. An endowment fund reflects a donor’s gratitude for God’s blessings and faith in the future. We are charged with balancing the creation of God’s kingdom today with the ongoing creation for generations to come.

Endowments, by providing a steady and predictable source of revenue, open up new opportunities for discipleship.

Some churches fear people will rely on the endowment’s earnings, diminishing giving. But churches that root endowment management in scripture will be modeling the stewardship of wealth in ways that will inspire generosity.

AUTHOR’S NOTE

It is probably impossible to have an original thought about what the Bible says about anything and I am undoubtedly reflecting things that have been said by other people before me. However, I am not intentionally quoting anyone and ask forgiveness if I have inadvertently expressed other people’s writings without attribution.

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