



**INTEGRATION OF STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES
IN THE MUSIC MINISTRY**
A PRESENTATION DURING
THE UGANDA UNION MUSIC CONVENTION
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Pr. Kiggundu Frank



- **Giant Stewards in Music Ministry**
- **Guidelines on Music Concerts for Money making and mission**



I Peter 4:10

*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as **good stewards** of the manifold grace of God. (KJV)*



I Peter 4:10

*"Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as **good managers** of the varied grace of God" (CSB)*



INTRODUCTION

- Giants have been around since time began; memorial.
- They are first described in the Bible in the book of Genesis (6:1-4).
- V4 There were giants (Nephilim) on the earth in those days and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown
- Originally, giants appear to have been regarded positively, often considered as heroes, particularly by the non-Hebrew population.





- After the great Flood, giants remained present in the scriptural texts, but their good reputation had waned/faded in the eyes of the Hebrews, and they often tended to be seen as the enemy, often fighting in armies.
- Giants lived together as a number of separate races, before and after the Flood



THE GIANTS

- The exact relations between different families of giants are a little unclear.
- For example, the Nephilim ([Numbers 13:32-33](#)), appear to be present before and after the flood.
- The Emites, the Ammonites (or Anakites) and the Rephaim ([Deuteronomy 2:10-11](#)), existed after the Flood and appear to be separate entities although the chronicler often uses the phrase 'like' suggesting they had a similar phenotype.
- The Anakim seem to be derived from the Nephilim.

- **Deuteronomy 2.21** states the Rephaim were largely subdued by the Ammonites which 'dwelt in their stead'
- One of the most prominent Rephaim was Og, King of Bashan, who slept in 'a bedstead of iron; nine cubits was the length, and four cubits the breadth of it' (**Deuteronomy 3:11**).
- A cubit was the distance from the elbow to the fingertips. He appears to be one of the last survivors of the Rephaim.
- A race of giants implies a hereditary element and the origins of some names may indicate the genetic pathway involved.

- Goliath, the Gittite, is the most well-known giant in the Bible. He is described as 'a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, whose height was six cubits and a span' (1 Samuel 17:4).
- From Samuel and Chronicles, we have drawn Goliath's pedigree. A literal interpretation of the verses suggests that his brother and three sons were also of giant stature.
- The name of Goliath's third son does not appear in the Bible, it was said that 'he had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes' (2 Samuel 21:20-21). Goliath's family tree is suggestive of a hereditary autosomal dominant pituitary gene,



The Concept of Stewardship



- *Stewardship* means the management or care of something, particularly the kind that works.
- The sphere or responsibility of a steward (as in a manager or administrator),
- *Stewardship* is often used to mean "the care, handling and management of resources."
- It's important that stewardship is not just about financial giving, but how we can give ourselves to God's work, commit our lives to God's service, and use God's gifts to bless those around us.
- *Stewardship* is a time to talk about God's abundant blessings and ways we can be good stewards of the gifts we've been given.



- Thus, stewardship is about taking care of the gifts God has given us. This includes managing our earthly possessions and monetary gains, but it also includes tending to the relationships we have and caring for the world around us



Understanding the secrets of great stewards



- The Bible says in **1 Corinthians 4:1**; "Let a man so consider us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."
- I beseech you to read through patiently with an open heart.
- The Scripture we read in the first two lines of this paragraph used certain words that is important for us to have a close look.



- It says 'let a man so consider us'; It is also the same as let a woman so consider us, let a people, a race, a generation, a tribe or tongue or kindred so consider us as what? It says 'as **servants of Christ**'.
- I would like us to note that word; **servant**. Then it says "and **stewards of the mysteries**".
- My emphasis won't be on the servant, but on stewards.
- The reason is because as much as I try to preach on servanthood, the Holy Spirit is redirecting my attention to stewards and **building** 'Giant Stewards in the Music Ministry'



- You will notice that Apostle Paul didn't stop with servant.
- But I notice the use of the word "and" which means in addition, we are stewards.
- So, He said we are both servants and stewards.
- Who is a servant? And who is a steward?

And what is the difference between the two?

- A servant is one who serves another providing help in some manner.
- He could either be bond or free.
- Apostle Paul most times refers to himself as a bond servant of Christ.
- Meanwhile a steward is a person who manages or one put in charge of a property, an empire, an event, an estate or affairs for another entity.
- A servant does not enjoy certain degree of rights or privileges but not so with a steward.
- Only on rare cases where a servant is required to do the job of a steward



A servant & A steward.....

- These two definitions gives us an understanding into what Apostle Paul meant when he said "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of Christ".
- Servanthood is the prerequisite to stewardship.
- I am sure you would be saying that servant and stewards are the same.
- No, they are not.
- At least in the context of this conversation. This verse says "servants of Christ Jesus."





- *So, until you are a servant of Christ Jesus you cannot be a steward of the mysteries.*
- What is a mystery?
- A mystery is a secret or something unexplainable.
- It is a truth behind events or occurrence or happenings understandable not by the application of human reasoning alone but with divine aid.
- It is usually obscure or puzzling in nature.



- So, the prerequisite to becoming a steward of Christ is first becoming a servant of Christ and staying faithful to Him.
- Although you are a servant of Christ, the ultimate goal is not to be a servant but a friend.
- Another word we could use in place of stewards is sons.
- Jesus at some point said to His disciples; I no longer call you servants but friends.



- Because a servant does not know. Did we see that?
- He said a servant does not know what the master is doing.
- So, mysteries can only be entrusted to stewards and friends or sons



Examine 1 Cor 4:2

- Verse 2 then says; "Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."
- In servanthood faithfulness, diligence, hard work, excellence and routine is required but in stewardship, the sole requirement is faithfulness.
- All other requirements mentioned in servanthood applies also, but the fundamental requirement is faithfulness.





- Apostle Paul didn't say it is required in stewards that a man be found to be diligent, hardworking or obedient.
- He said it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.
- In servanthood faithfulness, diligence, hard work, excellence and routine is required but in stewardship, the sole requirement is faithfulness.



- All other requirements mentioned in servanthood applies also, but the fundamental requirement is faithfulness.
- Apostle Paul didn't say it is required in stewards that a man be found to be diligent, hardworking or obedient.
- He said it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Lesson from Joseph's Stewardship Role

- Look at what **Genesis 39:4** says; "So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him."
- I would like us to note that word "*and served him*". See the word that followed next.
- It says; "Then he made him overseer of his house",
- This is no longer servanthood but stewardship.
- The latter experience of being made an overseer didn't come before service.

- But because he served, it qualified him for stewardship.
- At this point what is required of Joseph is faithfulness.
- It says; and all that he had he put under his authority."
- This is no longer an address to servants but to stewards.
- This means that the steward had some degree or level of authority bestowed upon him.

- Then verse 6 of the same chapter says; "Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate."
- At this point or at this level of stewardship it is not about man any longer but God.
- You are only answerable to God.
- That's why it was important for us to probe why apostle Paul said it is required in stewards' faithfulness

How was Joseph able to prove his faithfulness?

- Verse 8 says; "But he refused and said to his master's wife,
- "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.
- Then he said in verse 9b "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"
- Did we see God in the consciousness of Joseph?



What is faithfulness?

- Yes! The consciousness of faithfulness in leadership is what distinguishes leaders.
- And the consciousness of faithfulness is the operation of the Spirit of the fear of the Lord.
- Faithfulness means a state of allegiance, loyalty and fidelity.
- So, when Jesus was saying no man can serve two masters at the same time,
- He was talking about faithfulness.





- Faithfulness means constancy; the quality of trueness, dedication and commitment to one and to something or to an entity.
- Faithfulness talks about being deliberately resourceful.
- Faithfulness is to be full of faith; believing in a course, a vision, a pursuit with an undivided attention.
- Faithfulness is one vital requirement we need in our leadership and relationship as we journey or prepare for destiny fulfillment and should never be taken for granted.



As a leader, faithfulness is manifested or demonstrated in the following areas:



Number One: In followership

- An example of faithfulness in followership is a statement Ruth said to Naomi; she said "where you go I will go, your people shall be my people."
- Peter replied Jesus when the disciples were asked "will you also go?" He said to Jesus, "to whom shall we go?"
- Elisha said to Elijah, "as surly as the Lord lives I will not leave you."





- None of these people ended up as a nobody. But I could see through examples like Judas, Gehazi, Damas etc. Who were not faithful.
- God testified concerning Moses, he is faithful in all My house.
- It is one thing to be a servant or a steward for God, it is another thing to be faithful.
- The reward God gives to his servant who are faithful is called honor and more responsibility



Number Two:

Faithfulness is demonstrated in what you do

- Bible says in whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord.
- This talks about works and decisions.
- And whatever you do is an offshoot of what you have meditated upon.
- Bible says out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.
- And that is why it is important to guard the heart.





- The heart must be guarded against anything that has the capacity to deflate your level of faithfulness.
- The Bible says we should cast down thoughts and imaginations and any high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.



Number Three:

Faithfulness is demonstrated in what you say

- And what you say is a function of what you believe. As you believe you confess.
- This talks about your faith.
- Bible says when others are saying there is a casting down, others are rising to say there is a lifting up.



- The 12 spies saw themselves as grasshoppers before the sons of anarchy but others stood up to say we are able.
- There is a correlation between a man who is faithful and the words he speaks



Number Four: Faithfulness is demonstrated in who you are looking unto.

- This talks about your object of focus.
- The Bible says; looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith. Peter's walking on water is tied to him looking at Jesus and not the storm.
- Those who are faithful are not distracted by the glitters and glamors and the glory of this world.



- They know what they want and they live purposefully to actualize God's intention for their lives.
- They are focused, their eyes is fixed on the price. So, they run like they want to win.





Number Five: Faithfulness is demonstrated in what you stand for and who you stand for

- This talks about purpose and avoiding the crowd effect.
- It talks about principles, truth, justice and righteousness.
- The quality of your life and leadership is a function of who you stand for and what you stand for. In this crooked and perverse generation, who we must stand for is Jesus Christ.



REMEMBER

- What must we stand for? The words of Christ.
- Peter said to the authority, should we obey you or obey God for we cannot but speak of the things which we have both seen, heard.
- Faithfulness should be the reason why you do what you do.
- Because, you fear God, and because He is the only one that can reward you.
- And as you stay faithful you are sowing a good seed.





- Bible says; Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked whatever a man sows; faithfulness is what makes you sow well; faithfulness is the sowing ground for the future.
- Faithful is the vehicle, the transport system with which God's packages are delivered



4 Principles of Biblical Stewardship

“God created us to love people and use things, but materialists love things and use people.” Randy Alcorn



- Consider these statistics:
- 15% of Christ's recorded words deal with money
- 66% of his parables deal with riches and possessions
- In the gospels, 1 in every 10 verses addresses a financial issue
- In the Bible as a whole, financial matters are covered in 2,350 verses (more than the topics of faith and love combined!)



- It's been said that the greatest antidote to materialism is generosity.
- We combat greed, anxious toil, and our obsessive desire for more by giving to those in need and investing our lives and resources in that which will last forever.
- God desires us to use our resources specifically, for His honor and glory.



The Principle of Ownership

- God the Father has absolute rights of ownership over all things.
- To miss starting here is like misaligning the top button on our shirt or blouse—nothing else will ever line up.





- "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things" 1 Chronicles 29:11-12; Ps 24:1



- Perhaps you need to go to the Lord and simply acknowledge His ownership over each of area of your life.
- It's wonderfully freeing to be anchored in the truth that you are not your own, but were bought with the blood of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



The Principle of Responsibility



- The principle of responsibly means we feel the weight of God's generosity, and respond with thoughtful care, development, and pure enjoyment of the many gifts He's allowed us to manage
- **Mathew 25:14-30** narrates well the parable of the talents.
- "Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God."
Romans 14:12



The Principle of Accountability



- Jesus said,
"...When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required." Luke 12:48b



- Jesus shares this story to illustrate that we are called to carry out our various life-stewardships under the watchful eye of our Creator, managing what He's given in accordance with His will and values.
- We will ultimately give an account to Him for our entire lives, including our talents, money, abilities, time, relationships, jobs, authority, information, and wisdom.



The Principle of Reward

- If you are IN CHRIST then you have a right standing with God.
- You can do nothing to earn God's favor, so when the Bible speaks of "rewards" it has nothing to do with meriting his acceptance or favor.
- It does, however, have much to do with how we handle the many trials, tests, and assignments God gives us throughout the course of our lives. Consider the Apostle Paul's words,





"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ." Colossians 3:23-24



Stewardship of Talents

- Stewardship is broad covering a number of facets in life like: talents, time, treasure and temperance(mind and body)
- This presentation will focus on the stewardship of talents.





- God uses the littlest things in life.
- Things that we think are valueless can be invested for God's glory and reap a great harvest.
- For Example Look at
- **Exodus 4:1-2** Then Moses said, "What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.' " The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff."



Remember the Key factor:

- I, Am Responsible to increase what God has given to me. I may increase it or diminish it.
- Every Christian has some talent, ability and a spiritual gift he or she has received from God.
- **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- God has designed it that way.
- Some are gifted as "apostles," some as "prophets," some to be "evangelists" or "pastors" or "teachers"



- A simple shepherds staff, at first glance of little value.
- But little is much in the hands of God. Remember what happened next?
- **Exodus 4:3-4** Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. But the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail"—so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—



- Moses staff was employed by God to perform great miracles.
- God uses what we see as little value and brings forth a great increase.
- The question that we need to ask each of the participants today is: "*Will you offer what you have to be used by God as He sees fit?*"



- **Ephesians 4:11** And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,
- God entrusts us with gifts and talents as He chooses.
- **1 Corinthians 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills
- For the specific purpose of building the body, the church.



- **1 Corinthians 12:18** But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.
- And, we might add, some can carry a tune in the choir or teach a class or paint a wall for the children's Sabbath school room or trim the roses or wash pots and pans or cheerfully greet folks at the door with a handshake or a hug and a worship prompter for the day

Key

Everyone is gifted in some special way for some special task. And an essential part of our stewardship is to discover what our talent is (and spiritual gifts)" and then to put that talent to work "for the good of others" and so the whole "body," that the church, may grow and be built up through love



- **1 Corinthians 12:18** But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.
- Not only has God entrusted us with spiritual gifts but in addition God made each of us exactly the way He desired. He gave us the talents and abilities He desires for us to invest for His Glory.
- **Psalms 139:13** For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb



- It is evident from the Gospels that Jesus knew and clearly taught that persons differ in talents. There are diversities of gifts
- We're defining talents as any set of giftings, charisms, skill sets, or capacities we carry as members of the body of Christ.
- Let's hear what Peter says on this topic.
- "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.



- If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:10-11, NIV

- **A disciple SERVES with their talents.**
- "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others..."[1]



- *Our generosity with our talents must not simply be in volume, but in purpose.* Yes, if you have a gift in preaching/teaching, you should do so often and generously, like a farmer scattering a seed.
- But generosity means *for others*.
- Are you truly preparing, practicing, and using your talent with the defined purpose of serving another (and to be clear, not some broad and decontextualized "other", but people whose names you actually know)?



- What is your purpose in using your talents?
- **A disciple STEWARDS their talents**
- "...use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards..."[3]
- Peter hits it on the nose here: we are called to be faithful stewards with our talents.
- We are called to manage and look after these gifts given to us.



- A disciple **SACRIFICES** with their talents.
- "...use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." [5]
- Sometimes, being a good steward of our talents, and using it for others, means stepping into sacrifice.
- A Jesus disciple is generous with his/her talents when he/she **SERVES, STEWARDS, and SACRIFICES**



- He is diligently working day by day, and often minute by minute, to keep his head in the game and not allow the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions ([1 John 2:16](#),) to break down the wall of self-control that is a defining characteristic of a good and faithful steward



Music is God's Gift

- Music is both a unique and a universal aspect of our humanity.
- From the earliest recorded civilizations, music has always been an integral part of human cultures around the globe.
- From celebration to lamentation, relaxation to ritual, we turn to music to express and explore the range of thoughts, emotions, and feelings that accompany life's experiences





Why did God give us music?

- Music is also to teach and edify believers – All that bring glory to God will also bring edification to His people.
- That's why Scripture exhorts us to sing in the midst of His congregation.
- "Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints" ([Psalm 149:1](#)).





Why Did God Give Music to His People?



- In the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, there is a constant reference to music.
- Some books in the Bible, in part or in their entirety, are songs or poems (e.g. the Book of Psalms).
- In God's plan, music is the accompanying counterpart to the Word of God.
- Therefore, in our churches, we must regard scriptural music highly.



The Purpose of Music



- **Music is to glorify God** – The first and foremost purpose is to glorify God. Therefore, the subject and aim of our song must be God and His glory. "Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding" ([Psalm 47:6-7](#); cf. [Psalms 68:32; 92:1; 135:3](#)).



- **Music is also to teach and edify believers** – All that bring glory to God will also bring edification to His people. That's why Scripture exhorts us to sing in the midst of His congregation. "Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints" ([Psalm 149:1](#)). Scripture tells us how the Israelites worshipped while they were rebuilding the temple of the Lord – "they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD" ([Ezra 3:11](#)).



Music is a God-appointed means of instruction in doctrines and Christian values.



- **Music is to affirm people in the goodness and righteousness of God** – "They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness" (**Psalm 145:7**). Music enhances the memory of the church in rehearsing what God has done. It has been an integral and powerful tool which God gives to His church for the proclamation of His wondrous deeds to the young and old.



- **Music comforts the suffering believers** – Spiritual songs and melodies have always been a means of comfort. When Paul and Silas were beaten and thrust into the inner prison with their feet fastened in the stocks, they received comfort and peace through songs and prayers. "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" ([Acts 16:25](#)).



The Warning about Music



- As much as music is a gift of God, it can also be a tool of the devil – The purpose of music is the praise of God.
- But it has been perverted throughout human history.
- The Bible records for us the far-reaching impact of godly and ungodly music.
- While godly music blesses man with the presence of God, ungodly music leads man to worship other gods and even himself!

KING DAVID IN A DANCING MOOD





- **2 Chronicles 5:13-14** tells us how God blessed the Israelites with His presence as they praised the Lord with songs: "It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God."

- On the other hand, **Daniel 3:7** tells us how perverted music can compel people to turn away from the living and true God – "Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up."



- Thus, the church must show extreme scriptural discipline in its practice of music.
- We should not fall prey to the world in using its type of music.
- Music that is used to provoke satanic worship and sensual activities should not be brought to the church.



Is Contemporary Christian Music honoring to God? Should it be used in church services?

- Some contemporary music is honoring to God, and some is not. Motive, method, and doctrine must all be examined
- It is fine to use contemporary songs, but **test** any song against scripture, and be sure the motive and manner are for the worship of God.



9 Ways Music Can Glorify God (**Bob Kauflin**)





Use Music Well

- Music is meant to be a means of bringing glory to God, one more way in which we can “proclaim the excellences of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9).
- [Bob Kauflin](#) (2017) suggests specific steps to help us use music in a way that benefits our souls and honors the Savior.





Evaluate your current intake of music.

- If you think, "I don't need to evaluate the quality or quantity of my music," you're probably wrong.
- Because indwelling sin is so deceptive, I usually have a difficult time seeing the effect music is having on me.
- Areas to consider include how much music you listen to, what types, in what situations and times of day, and for how long.





- Ask your friends, parents, or a pastor to get their perspective on whether your music listening is characterized by biblical discernment and a desire to please God.
- Make sure they give you an honest answer. It could be the means God uses to deliver you from the world's grasp.



Delete or throw away music you'll listen to only if you backslide.

- When we become Christians, God transforms our hearts.
- We're no longer those who live "in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind" ([Eph. 2:3](#)).
- Pursuits we once found appealing no longer interest us and at times even repulse us.
- But more often than not, music that might tempt us stays on our computers, in our CD collection, or on our MP3 player.
- Whether the reason is negligence, lack of time, or the thought that we might find it appealing at a later date, it's wise to get rid of what could hinder our growth in Christ.
- *'Music is a precious gift, but it makes a terrible god.'*





Listen to music with others.

- Bob narrates, as his children were growing up, he had one CD player in the house that served as the family listening center.
- Music was a family activity and no one developed his or her own private listening habits.
- Those days are long gone.
- But listening to music with others is still a good idea.
- Part of the joy music communicates comes from sharing it.





- If you only listen to music through a set of headphones, consider investing in a set of speakers for your iPod or an audio system for your home.
- And don't insist on listening to music only you like.



Make music rather than listen to it.

- You don't have to be especially gifted to play a guitar or plunk out chords on a piano.
- But even if you don't play an instrument, you can obey God's command to sing ([Ps. 47:6](#)).
- Producing music ourselves frees us from thinking that the joy music provides depends on technology.





Go on a music fast.

- At American University, students in a class called "Understanding Mass Media" were shocked to learn mid-semester that the course requirements included a 24-hour media fast: "No television, computers, iPods or other MP3 devices, radio, video games, CD players, records, or cell phones (or land lines) for 24 hours."
- One student described it as "grueling pain"; another called it "one of the toughest days I have had to endure."¹





- But everyone lived to tell about it, and some even though they benefited from the assignment.
- Maybe you can't imagine giving up your music for a month, a week, or even a day.
- But there are few more effective ways to measure the place music holds in your life, thinking, and behavior.
- It doesn't even have to be a full fast.
- You can try driving in silence for twenty minutes rather than listening to the radio or your iPod.



- You can establish a limit to how much music you listen to each day.
- Whatever kind of fast you choose, it's sure to leave you with more time to pray, read you're Bible, and serve others.





Keep track of how much music you buy.

- Rhapsody, iTunes, and other downloading services have made it easier to lose track of how much you're actually spending on music.
- Before you know it, you've racked up one hundred dollars in charges for music you "had" to have.
- Realistically, some of us can't even listen to all the music we buy. Figure out a budget for what you should be spending and stick to it.





Broaden your musical tastes.

- Music is neither a demon to be feared nor a god to be idolized.
- It's simply a part of God's creation intended to serve his glory and our good.
- That means we can appreciate a wide variety of different styles and expressions of music.
- But when it comes to music, most of us know what we like and like what we know.
- We rarely venture out into new styles and genres.





- In fact, we excel at mocking the tastes of those we think are less musically informed— people who like country, opera, or pop, for instance.
- Try asking your friends with different musical tastes to suggest songs or albums you should listen to.
- Discover what they enjoy about a particular style or artist and what aspect of God's glory you might be missing by not listening to it.



Listen to old music

- Human beings have been making music at least since the fourth chapter of Genesis, where we're told that Jubal "was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe" ([Gen. 4:21](#)).
- A lot of music has been written, sung, and recorded since then.
- And yet we can still think the best music is what was produced in the past ten years—or worse, what's coming out next month.





- Music that stands the test of time is worth giving our attention to.
- That doesn't mean everything written in the past is great music.
- But we're shortsighted, proud, and poorer if we never appreciate the music God has given us throughout history.



Intentionally thank God every time you enjoy music.

- Music is a gift from God.
- But God never intends his gifts to replace him as the object of our desire and delight.
- Music may be able to calm our hurried spirits, encourage our troubled hearts, and strengthen our weary souls—but not like our Savior can.
- He has redeemed us by his death, sympathizes with us in our weaknesses, and is able to give us mercy and grace in our time of need ([Eph. 1:7](#); [Heb. 4:15–16](#)).





- Music, like all of God's gifts, is meant to draw our hearts and attention to his glory, his power, and his love.



**Resist the world's
definition of success. Listen
to the voice of the Lord.
And be faithful to sow the
seed God has given into
your hands into the plot of
land right in front of you.**

— CAROLINE COBB





Conclusion

- It's important that stewardship is not just about financial giving, but how we can give ourselves to God's work, commit our lives to God's service, and use God's gifts to bless those around us
- If stewardship principles are fully integrated in the music ministry we shall produce giant stewards to propagate His mission for today and the world to come.





END

