



Stewardship of Self

A Grateful Awareness of Loving Presence.

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“Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.”

– Thomas Merton

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

(Matthew 25:14-16 NABRE)



This portion of the commandment is often times neglected. Yet, how we love and care for “self,” directly influences how we love and serve God and neighbor.



*Dependent on Love:
We must have a willingness to
fearlessly Love and Be Loved.*

- To fall in love with God.
 - To be loved by God.
 - To fall in love with self.



Loving God and neighbor are central themes to our preaching and teaching of stewardship.

What do we preach and teach concerning the “as yourself” portion of this commandment?



“Since stewardship is a way of life, and not simply a program of church support, the most important ingredient in any effort to encourage giving of time, talent, and treasure is the personal witness of individuals (clergy, religious, and lay) who have experienced a change of heart as a result of their commitment to stewardship.



2 Big Questions

What does my way of life give personal witness to?

What heart changing experiences have resulted from my commitment to stewardship?

Grace

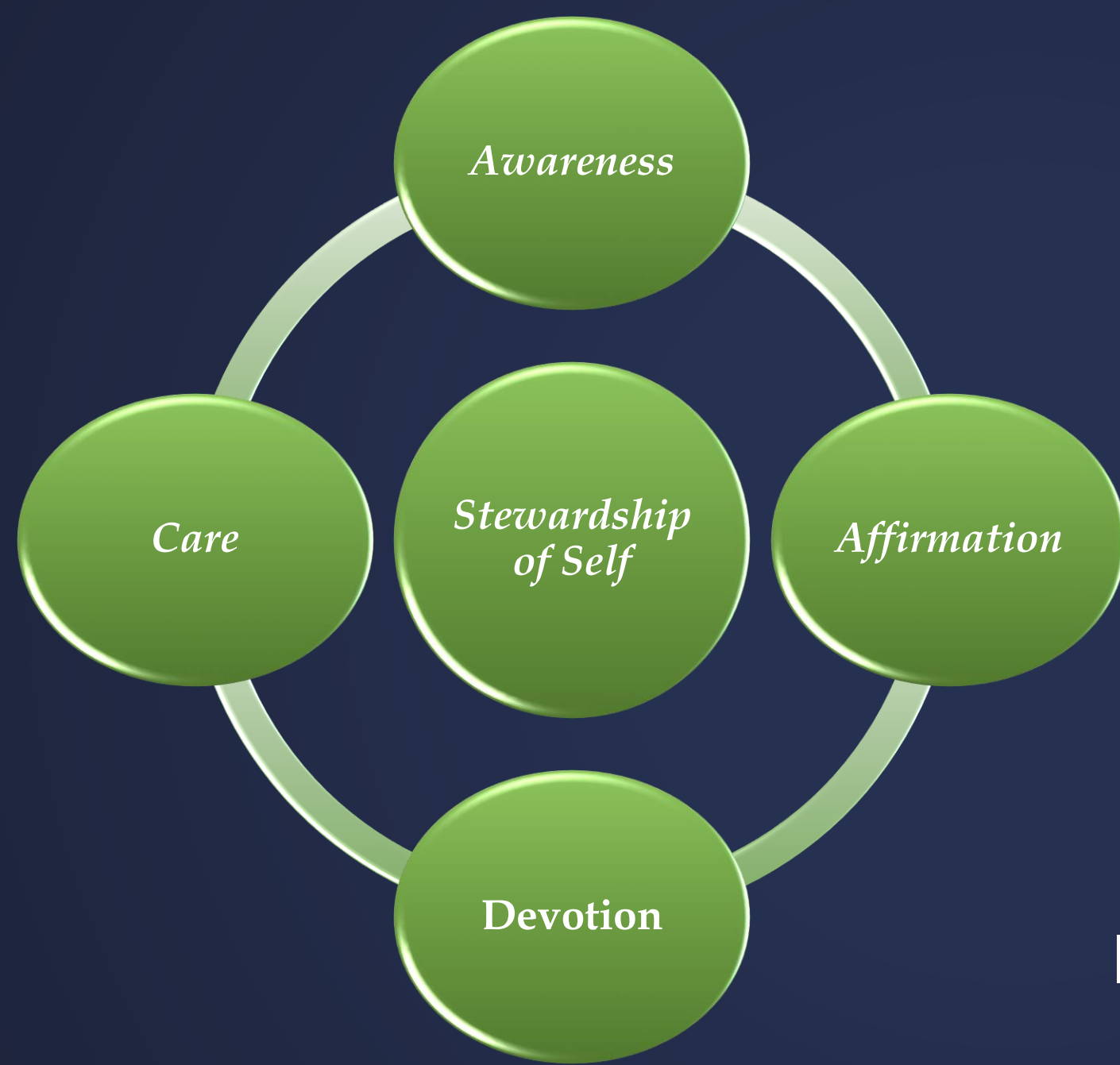
Good stewardship seeks to increase our awareness and deepen our understanding of the loving and merciful presence of God in our life, and to invite us into a deeper knowledge of one's self present to God.





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Our willingness to *Love* and *Be Loved*, informs and renews our

Self-Awareness,
Self-Affirmation,
Self-Devotion,
and
Self-care,

collaboratively leading us into

Loving Presence

– both God’s presence in our lives and our presence to God –

our *Stewardship of Self*.



Self-Awareness

Who am I as a disciple of Christ?

How do I celebrate and give thanks for the gift of my life?

Where does my life reflect a gracious generosity of the heart in gratitude of all Christ is in my life?



Self-Affirmation

What am I grateful for?

How do I understand this experience / feeling of gratitude?

How does this value and my understanding of it affirm my values?



Self-Devotion

Where does my life reflect the light of Christ in me?

Where do I best live out stewardship?

Where in my life does the will of God shine it's light for the glory of God and goodness of the body of Christ?



Self-Care

What keeps my lantern lit with the light of Christ?

What nourishes my soul and strengthens me?

Where do I experience a personal encounter of Christ?



Stewardship of Self seeks:
Encounter, Surrender, and Gratitude.
To remind and confirm for us that:



Discipleship entails “committing one’s very self to the Lord,” and being “open to the movement of the Holy Spirit towards a gracious generosity of the heart.”

(USCCB, Stewardship, A Disciple’s Response, 2002.)



Our life is not our own. Christ is with us and in us, and we must know that His Spirit rests in our hearts and guides us in all ways.



Our life represents a sacred communion that our Stewardship of Self seeks to honor.



We each are a gift
uniquely and perfectly handcrafted
by God.

The true gift entrusted to each of
us is Life.

Am I the best steward I can be of
this precious gift?

Questions??

