



# The Stewardship of Our Testimonies

## Stewardship Month 2013

### Calvary Baptist Church

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#### **THREE BASIC IMPLICATIONS OF STEWARDSHIP (Gen. 15:2; 24:1-67)**

1. Relationship
  2. Responsibility
  3. Reckoning (Accountability)
- When we use the word “testimony” here, we do not mean our verbal witness about Christ.
  - Instead, in this context, we mean the witness of our **lives**.
- I. **We are to Be **Lights** to the World (Mt. 5:14-16; 5:48; Jn. 1:6-9; Philip. 2:15; 1 Peter 2:11-12)**
- Our reputations will either **attract** others to Christ, or turn people away from Him in **disgust**.
- II. **We Must **Guard** Our Testimony**
- We should view our life testimonies, our reputations, as something to be “stewarded.”
  - A person who has a good testimony is in a position to be able to influence the world for Christ, and to advance the work of God.
- A. **Against Every Attack of **Satan** (1 Pet. 5:8)**
- B. **Against Every Sinful **Temptation** (James 1:13-15)**
- Drawn away** - To draw or **drag** out, as from the right way, to draw away. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*
- Enticed** – To **bait**, entrap. In the NT metaphorically to entice, beguile. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*
- C. **Against Every Hindering **Weight** (Heb. 12:1)**
- Weight** – Gk., *onkos*, meaning A tumor, mass, magnitude, weight, burden, impediment. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*

### III. Ten Biblical Teachings about Our Testimony

1. We must remember that our purpose is to **glorify** God. (Eph. 1:12; 1 Cor. 15:58)
2. We must be careful lest we lose our ability to be **salt** (preserving influence). (Lk. 14:34-35)
3. We must **pray** for the strength to follow the spirit and not the flesh. (Mt. 26:41)
4. We must consciously **choose** light over darkness. (Eph. 5:8-11)
5. We must live out our faith in **disciplined** precision. (Eph. 5:14-17)
6. We must utilize all the **resources** that God has provided. (Eph. 6:10-13)
7. We must guard against **sexual** sin. (1 Thess. 4:1-5)
8. We must be alert to forces that can overtake us. To put it plainly, "**wake** up!" (1 Thess. 5:4-8)
9. We must not allow this world to **spot** our testimony. (James 1:27)
10. We must not allow a **double** mind to compromise our testimony. (James 4:7-8)

#### CONCLUDING APPLICATION: Ten practical ways to guard your testimony.

1. Learn to say "**no**" to sinful desires.
2. Recognize the **real** danger of losing your testimony. (1 Pet. 5:8)
3. **Run** from sources of temptation. (2 Tim. 2:22 A)
4. Know that companions **affect** character. (2 Tim. 2:22B)
5. Avoid every **form** of evil (1 Thess. 5:22)
6. Keep your **eyes** and mind from wandering.
7. Don't permit yourself to consume questionable entertainment. (TV, internet, books, movies)
8. Remember that God is watching **everything** that you do.
9. Remember that the **lost** and immature believers are watching your testimony.
10. Remember that no one is **exempt** from the danger of losing his/her testimony. (1 Cor. 10:12)

#### CONCLUDING ILLUSTRATION