

# THEOLOGY OF STEWARDSHIP

Adopted 2025

## What We Believe

Stewardship starts with God. We read in Scripture that the Triune God created us in his image, which means God desires for us to reflect and represent him to each other and to the world. As his image-bearers, God gave us a specific vocation to care for and cultivate all that he has made and entrusted to us, which we call stewardship. Although the word stewardship is not found in the Bible, its presence permeates all of Scripture, as we see God creating, redeeming, and sustaining all things and inviting us to partner with him in this holy and sacred work for his glory, for our good, and for the life of the world around us.

We can think of stewardship in terms of a cycle of **GRACE**, **GRATITUDE**, and **GENEROSITY**.



It is by **GRACE** that we live and move and have our being in God. God did not have to create us, but he did. God did not have to make a covenant with us, but he did. God did not have to save us from our sin and separation through Christ, but he did. God did not have to send us his Spirit so we can be united to him and to one another forever, but he did. God did none of this because we earned it or deserved it, but only because of his great love for us (Romans 5:8).

What, then, is our response to this grace? **GRATITUDE**. We worship God gratefully as we say, "thank you" and "amen" to his free and undeserved gifts. We have the posture of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32; the attitude of the tax collector Luke 18:9-14; the heart-condition of the thief on the cross in Luke 23:42. We sing the hymn: *"Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise."*

This gratitude thus overflows to our acts, gifts, and lives of **GENEROSITY**. We recognize that we cannot pay God back for his grace towards us, but we can pay it forward by serving, giving, and living generously. Because we have been blessed, we bless others (Matthew 10:8). Because we have received mercy from the Lord, we show mercy to those around us. Because God's grace has so saturated our lives, we go forth boldly to share our time, our talents, and our treasures with others so that they might know God's grace, too. And so, the cycle continues!



300 North Cherry Street | Winston Salem, NC 27101