 New Mercies

# UNLEASHED

RELATIONSHIPS

JOHN 8:36

Faithful With the  
Relationships God Has  
Entrusted

# Key Texts:

- Genesis 2:18
- Proverbs 27:17
- Ephesians 6:1–4
- John 15:12–13

# BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP OF RELATIONSHIPS

## Short Definition:

Biblical stewardship of relationships is the faithful, intentional management of the people God has entrusted to our care — children, family, and friends — for His glory, their growth, and the advancement of His Kingdom.

# BIG IDEA

God does not **just** entrust us with money and gifts —  
He entrusts us with people.

And we will give an account for how we loved, led, and  
influenced them.

# INTRODUCTION

“I have two daughters, 24 and 26. By God’s grace, we have a strong, healthy relationship. That didn’t happen accidentally. It required prayer, intentionality, correction, humility, and love.”

**Transition:** Healthy relationships are not luck.  
They are stewardship.

# SECTION 1: RELATIONSHIPS BELONG TO GOD

Psalm 24:1 Principle Applied

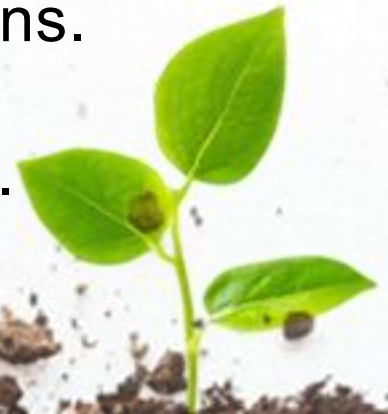
Psalm 24:1 (*"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" - NIV*) declares God's absolute sovereignty and ownership over all creation. It emphasizes that both the physical planet and its inhabitants belong to God. This foundational verse reminds individuals that they are stewards of a world that is not their own.

Your children are not your possessions.

Your spouse is not your property.

Your friendships are not accidents.

They are entrusted.



# SECTION 1: RELATIONSHIPS BELONG TO GOD

Genesis 2:18 - *“It is not good that man should be alone...”*

God created relationship before He created responsibility.

**Stewardship Principle:**

Isolation is not spiritual maturity.  
Connection is part of God’s design.



# Faithful With the Relationships God Has Entrusted

Genesis 2:18

"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"

"Not Good" Alone: This represents the only part of creation God deemed "not good" before finishing it. It indicates that man was created for relationship and social connection.

"Helper Fit for Him" (Ezer Kenegdo): The Hebrew term ezer (helper) does not imply inferiority;



# Faithful With the Relationships God Has Entrusted

it is often used to describe God as humanity's helper

**Note:** Psalm 121:1-2 - "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth".

is a song of ascents declaring that true help comes from the Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth, rather than earthly, dangerous, or idol-filled hills.

It signifies an active, faithful reliance on God for protection, often recited for comfort and encouragement during trials.



## SECTION 2: STEWARDSHIP OF CHILDREN

**Ephesians 6:4** - “Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

Three Responsibilities in Stewarding Children:

- Spiritual Guidance
  - Teach truth
  - Model faith
- Pray consistently



# SECTION 2: STEWARDSHIP OF CHILDREN

## Emotional Safety

Create space for honesty  
Listen without overreacting  
Correct without crushing

## Relational Transition

Parenting shifts in adulthood  
Move from control → counsel  
Move from authority → influence



## SECTION 2: STEWARDSHIP OF CHILDREN

“At 24 and 26, my daughters don’t need control — they need wisdom, support, and continued relationship.”

### Stewardship Principle:

As children grow, stewardship shifts from management to mentorship.

Children have a role to play as well.



## SECTION 2: STEWARDSHIP OF CHILDREN

**Children's Duty (v. 1-3):** "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." It includes the commandment to "honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with a promise: "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth".



## SECTION 3: STEWARDSHIP OF FAMILY

**1 Timothy 5:8** - "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (ESV).

Provision is not just financial.

It includes:

- Presence
- Protection
- Peace



## SECTION 3: STEWARDSHIP OF FAMILY

### Colossians 3:13

Colossians 3:13 instructs believers to bear with one another and forgive any grievances, mirroring the forgiveness received from the Lord. It highlights the necessity of patience, overlooking faults, and extending grace, rooted in the example of Christ's forgiveness. This verse is a call to maintain unity and harmony within the community.



## SECTION 3: STEWARDSHIP OF FAMILY

Family stewardship requires:

- Forgiveness
- Patience
- Healthy boundaries
- Communication

**Key Truth:**

You cannot control family members —  
but you can steward your response to them.



## SECTION 4: STEWARDSHIP OF FRIENDSHIPS

**Proverbs 27:17** - "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (NIV)

**Mutual Improvement:** It highlights that relationships are meant for personal and spiritual growth, where individuals encourage, mentor, and build each other up.



## SECTION 4: STEWARDSHIP OF FRIENDSHIPS

**Constructive Conflict:** The "sharpening" process often involves difficult conversations or receiving constructive feedback, which helps remove "dullness" or weaknesses in a person's character.

**Friendship and Accountability:** It suggests that wise friends challenge each other rather than always agreeing, fostering accountability and bettering one another.



# SECTION 4: STEWARDSHIP OF FRIENDSHIPS

Questions:

Do your friends challenge your faith?

Do you challenge theirs?



## SECTION 4: STEWARDSHIP OF FRIENDSHIPS

**John 15:13** - "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." These verses emphasize sacrificial, self-less love modeled by Jesus, urging believers to prioritize others' well-being.



## SECTION 4: STEWARDSHIP OF FRIENDSHIPS

**The Commandment (v. 12):** Jesus commands his followers to love each other specifically in the same manner that he has loved them.

**The Ultimate Love (v. 13):** The highest form of love is defined as laying down one's life for friends.



# SECTION 4: STEWARDSHIP OF FRIENDSHIPS

**Context:** This passage is part of Jesus' "farewell discourse" to his disciples, outlining the nature of their relationships with each other, focusing on service and sacrifice.

**Meaning:** It signifies a total commitment, prioritizing others over oneself

Friendship stewardship includes:

- Loyalty
- Truth-telling
- Accountability
- Showing up



# SECTION 5: WHAT DESTROYS RELATIONAL STEWARDSHIP?

Just like the unfaithful servant buried his talent...

We can bury relationships through:

Neglect

Pride

Unforgiveness

Busyness

Control

Stewardship Principle:

Unused relational investment leads to relational loss.



# SECTION 6: ACCOUNTABILITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

**Romans 14:12** "So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God." This verse concludes Paul's argument against judging fellow believers over non-essential matters, emphasizing individual responsibility and personal accountability before God's judgment seat. It highlights that every person must answer for their own actions, not those of others.



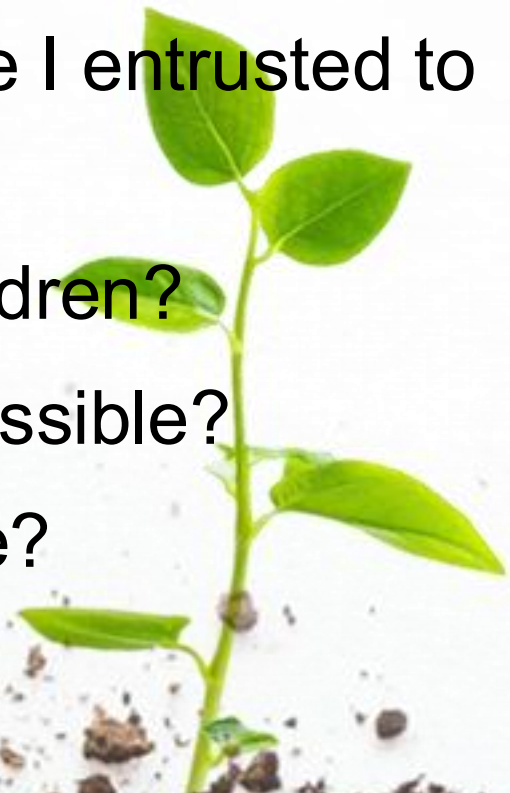
# SECTION 6: ACCOUNTABILITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

One day God won't ask:

“How successful were you?”

He may ask: “How did you love the people I entrusted to  
you?”

- Did you disciple your children?
- Did you reconcile when possible?
  - Did you extend grace?



# APPLICATION

## Practical Relational Stewardship This Week:

1. Initiate one intentional conversation.
2. Apologize where necessary.
3. Pray specifically for each child/family member/friend.
4. Replace control with counsel.
5. Speak life daily.



# FINAL REFLECTIONS

1. Who has God entrusted to me relationally?
2. Am I multiplying trust or burying connection?
3. Where have I allowed pride or busyness to weaken stewardship?
4. What step of obedience is God calling me to this week?



# CLOSING THOUGHT

- Stewardship of relationships is not about perfection
- It's about faithfulness.
- The goal is not flawless parenting.
- Not flawless friendships.
- Not flawless families.
- The goal is faithful love.



# PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK

- Repentance for relational neglect
- Courage to initiate healing
- Wisdom in parenting adult children
- Grace to forgive
- Faithfulness in influence

