



 northchurch
Group Discussion Guide
Who Owns It?
Sunday, January 29, 2012

Read

1 Chronicles 29 give an interesting perspective on how King David in ancient Israel viewed his possessions. Read verses 1-20 of this chapter. Listen for David's view of ownership, stewardship and investment.

Discuss

Everything belongs to God... everything comes from God... everything is dispersed by God.

It's apparent that King David did not buy into the myth of ownership. He wanted to make a huge investment in God's Kingdom with the resources he'd been entrusted with (see verses 3-4). He understood the difference between *ownership* and *stewardship*. Ownership says *mine*, stewardship says *yours*. If you did an honest heart-assessment today in terms of your stuff, where would the needle point between ownership and stewardship?

In his book Screwtape Letters, CS Lewis tackles the myth of ownership. The book is written as a series of letters from a fictitious demon, Screwtape, who is advising a younger demon on how to effectively mislead his human:

"The sense of ownership in general is always to be encouraged. The humans are always putting up claims to ownership which sound equally funny in Heaven and in Hell and we must keep them doing so.... And all the time the joke is that the word "mine" in its fully possessive sense cannot be uttered by a human being about anything. In the long run either Our Father (Satan) or the Enemy (Jesus) will say "Mine" of each thing that exists, and especially of each man. They will find out in the end, never fear, to whom their time, their souls, and their bodies really belong – certainly not to them, whatever happens."

1 Chronicles 29:12 says, "Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength." Our skills, our intellect, our business or people savvy, our material possessions... What do we have that was not given or taught us? God gives to us *freely*, but he does not give to us *equally*. He invests in each of us as *He* sees fit, for *His* purposes in us. As you consider the things God has invested in you, do you have a sense of how He wants you to use them for His kingdom and His purposes? Share with the group.

If you received a "stewardship practice" envelope at church on Jan. 29, share with the group how you invested the money, or how you plan to do so.

Pray

Reserve at least the last 15 minutes of group time to pray for the things that came up during your discussion and any other prayer needs.