

Today, we continue discussing the COMA questions:

1. Who **C**ontrols your life?
2. Who **O**wns the money and belongings you use?
3. For whom do you **M**anage them?
4. To whom are you **A**ccountable?

Last time we discussed the first item, Control. Today, we address the others by talking about the first element of the GAS Principle.

I coined the term GAS Principle years ago to address the **COMA** questions and highlight our stewardship role. The GAS Principle represents Biblical truths you know as follows:

The GAS Principle

1. **God owns everything**
2. **Accept what you have**
3. **Seek first His Kingdom and submit your requests to Him**

What's the implication of God owns everything? We get a glimpse of this from Psalm 24:1-2:

Psalm 24:1-2:

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Do you really believe God owns everything? We know this in our heads, and we believe it in our hearts, but how do we act? When we look at our spending what do we see? Let's check our financial affairs to find out: Review your credit card statements, bank statements, loans, giving to God, and then ask God to show you where needs attention!

If we believe God owns everything, it follows we own nothing. We are merely God's stewards. This attitude toward belongings will affect how we manage our wants and needs. Notice I didn't say how we manage money. We can only manage our behavior—essentially our wants, needs, and greed nature.

We hear the word steward often in church. Preachers and Bible teachers tell us to be good stewards. But who is a steward? I suggest ...

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A steward is someone who gets specific responsibility and authority from an owner to look after the owner's property based on the owner's performance standards. In return, the steward agrees to account to the owner regularly about his performance compared with the owner's standards.

These are some fancy words, what do they mean to you and me! Simply, Christ is the owner and gives us time, talents, and other possessions to do what He calls us to do. We will never lack anything to do what God wants us to do! Isn't this exciting? Do you believe it? Listen to Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 1:3:

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness

Did you get that? Since God will give us what we need, our role is to stay close to Him to know what He wants us to do. Then we act like good stewards, confident He is in control.

But, to be God's stewards of time, talents, and possessions, we must know Jesus, know His Word, and manage His property using His standards in the Bible. Do you see what accepting God's ownership means? What He approves, we approve. What He disapproves, we disapprove. So, before spending His money we must ask His approval. In addition, after spending, we must account to Him for our actions as in Matthew 25:14-30.

God has called us to spread the Good News and to store treasures in heaven. Are we using His funds to do this? Are we fulfilling our stewardship role? Ask God to help you answer these questions.

During this week, find out how much interest you paid last month on loans, including your mortgage, and compare with amounts you gave to your church and Christian charities. Ask God to speak to you about the result.

I pray you can answer, Jesus, to the all COMA questions; that you can say:

1. Jesus is in Control of my life
2. Jesus Owns everything I possess
3. I am Jesus' Manager, and
4. I Account to Him regularly!

Next time we will look at the "A" in the GAS Principle by reviewing Hebrews 13:5.

God bless, and remember, Jesus loves you.