

## Mine!

**One of the first words other than mama and dada that a child learns is, “Mine!”** If you doubt me just go down to our nursery area and try to take a toy away from a two year old. In all probability the word you will hear is, “Mine,” followed by tears. Where do they learn that? We certainly don’t teach that. We could have a long theological talk about the sin nature of man and all that but I think all of us would agree that sadly we are born with a selfish tendency.

How can a cute little toddler be selfish? Yet they are. We don’t worry about it much because we know with proper training and maturity they will grow up. Yet does that attitude of, this is mine, ever leave us? When you believe that something is yours or that you have earned something it is harder to give it away. When something is simply loaned to you then it is easier to give back.

Did you know that what you think you own you don’t really own? We know that is true for the car and house we have financed through the bank. In actuality everything we think we own is simply on loan to us. You doubt me? Consider Psalms 24:1 that says, “The earth is the Lord’s and **everything** in it.” This passage and others teaches us that God owns it all. What we have He has entrusted to us. Consider it a loan.

Here is another passage to consider, “*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust (literally, stewards) must prove faithful*” ([1 Corinthians 4:2](#)). The Greek term “steward” here includes a form of the word, *house*. It describes a household manager in the ancient Greek world who handled the finances for the owner. Managers are accountable to owners for how they use their finances or material possessions.

Every time we take up an offering here it is our opportunity to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Our gifts fuel the mission and ministry that we do here. Yet when we give we grow in maturity. We cease being a toddler saying, mine, to becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ saying, yours! Today as we take up this offering let’s be good stewards of that which God has entrusted to us.