

# Core Competencies

Part 8 - Stewardship of Relationships  
Matthew 5:43-48

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## Core Competencies

### Beliefs, practices, and skills...

- [ central to living out our faith in the real world
- [ which we can leverage to our practical advantage in a wide variety of contexts and situations

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## Core Competencies

### Beliefs, practices, and skills...

- [ a 5-finger grip on the Word of God
- [ holy living (separation to God and from sin)
- [ witnessing
- [ stewardship
  - treasures
  - talents
  - time
  - **relationships**

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# Relationships

**God made us, God designed us for relationships with other people...**

*"be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth"*

Genesis 1:28

*"It is not good that man should be alone."*

Genesis 2:18

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# Relationships

husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter,  
brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather,  
grandson, granddaughter, aunt, uncle, cousin,  
nephew, niece, mother-in-law, father-in-law,  
neighbor, friend, enemy, co-worker, boss,  
employer, employee...

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# Relationships

God established and regulated **clear relational lines** to:

- help us know our place in the world
- provide us with contexts and boundaries for implementing the other core competencies
- help us measure where we are in relation to God's expectations

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# Contexts and Boundaries

To implement the other core competencies...

“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness, and self-control”

**Galatians 5:22**

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# Measuring Where We Are...

1. The Lord's expectations of our relationship behavior are based on **the standard of regardless-love**, not on the standard of reward/retaliation.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you.”

**Matthew 5:43-44**

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# Measuring Where We Are...

2. The Lord expects our relationships to reflect **the grace and generosity of our heavenly Father**, not the economy of the world's social exchanges.

“...so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even Gentiles do the same?”

**Matthew 5:44-47**

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## Measuring Where We Are...

3. The Lord's expectations of our relationships are based on **our participation in the Father's perfections**, not on our participation in the imperfections of our fallen, human nature.

"You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

**Matthew 5:48**

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## Measuring Where We Are...

1. The Lord's expectations of our relationship behavior are based on **the standard of regardless-love**, not on the standard of reward/retaliation – Matt. 5:43-44

2. The Lord expects our relationships to reflect **the grace and generosity of our heavenly Father**, not the economy of the world's social exchanges – Matt. 5:45-47

3. The Lord's expectations of our relationships are based on **our participation in the Father's perfections**, not on our participation in the imperfections of our fallen, human nature – Matt. 5:48

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## Applications...

1. Take inventory of the relationships God has entrusted to you and ask yourself, "How am I measuring up to God's expectations for my relationships?"

2. Meditate on the fruit of the Spirit as being implemented in the context of your relationships. Which one do you need to work on? What is the Spirit teaching you?

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## Bonus Slides

**Spiritual Gifts** = talents, abilities, and roles  
given in grace by the Lord Jesus to His Body  
through the Holy Spirit

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## Gifts, Services, and Workings

**gifts** (charismatos) = various "talents" or abilities we possess  
**services** (diakonos) = various ways we have of using our gifts  
**workings** (energia) = various ways spiritual life is indicated

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## Gifts, Services, and Workings

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same **Spirit**;  
and there are varieties of service, but the same **Lord**;  
and there are varieties of workings, but it is the same  
**God** who empowers them all in everyone."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

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# Gifts, Services, and Workings

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.**"

1 Corinthians 12:7

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# Developing Competence

1. **Cultivate heart-deep appreciation for the Church, the Body of Christ - Ephesians 5:25**
2. **Take inventory of the reasons why the Holy Spirit placed you in the Body of Christ - 1 Peter 4:10**
3. **Seek out and invest in training - 2 Timothy 1:6**
4. **Seek out and invest in opportunities to serve - 2 Cor 12:9**
5. **Ask for and humbly receive feedback - Luke 9:6, 10**

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# BONUS SLIDES

- [ The Bible is relevant and transforming
- [ gives **new birth** – 1 Peter 1:23 "Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God..."
- [ produces **faith** – Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
- [ stimulates **spiritual growth** – 1 Peter 2:2 "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you grow up into salvation..."
- [ makes possible **holy living** – John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
- [ gives **victory over sin** – Psalm 119:11 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."
- [ delivers **help and comfort in times of trouble** – Psalm 119:50 "This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life."
- [ provides **guidance for life's decisions** – Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- [ facilitates **blessed outcomes** – Psalm 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."
- [ adds **substance to our witness** – Luke 21:15 "...for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict."
- [ connects us to **the wonder of God's plan and will for us** – Psalm 119:18 "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

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# Stewardship of Treasures

## Assumptions

1. The other core competencies form the foundation of this one
2. Ultimately, God is the owner of all our treasures (Psalm 24:1-2)
3. Ultimately, a person's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions (Luke 12:15)
4. Whatever we have we have received from God (John 3:27)
5. God does not need any of the treasures He has entrusted to us (Psalm 50:7-15)
6. Our stewardship reveals the condition of our hearts in terms of our responsiveness to the Lord, to His Spirit, and to His Word (Matthew 6:19-24)
7. Our stewardship impacts the fruitfulness of our church (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

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# Stewardship of Treasures

## Applications - How to develop the core competency of stewardship of treasures

1. Embrace the seven assumptions (and the rest of the Bible's teaching on stewardship) in your heart, on a heart-deep level
2. Embrace the importance of stewarding "small" treasures
3. Apply the seven assumptions across four activities of stewardship: supplying, sharing, saving, and spending (debt reduction, meeting needs and obligations, other legitimate, biblical priorities, and desires)
4. Apply the seven assumptions to what you keep (not just to income, but also to investments and other items of value)
5. Place equal priority (at a minimum) on sharing/giving
6. Communicate with God about your stewardship
7. Be intentional (make a plan, a budget, and work it)
8. Seek counsel and accountability

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# A 5-Finger Grip on the Word



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## Living separate FROM sin

- [ Guard your heart
- [ Be intentional and holding nothing back
- [ Control your mind-gate
- [ Choose your friends carefully
- [ Plan communication strategies and escape routes
- [ Choose your heroes carefully
- [ Practice self-denial
- [ Play it safe
- [ Live beyond the prohibitions

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## Listening to the Holy Spirit

**John 16:8** — "And when he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment"

- [ through the written Word
- [ through prayer
- [ through a well-formed conscience
- [ through interaction and accountability with others

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## Philippians 2:12-13

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**"

**"For it is God who works in you** both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

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