

Biblical Stewardship and Legacy Planning

How Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning Can Support Your Family and Advance God's Kingdom

Stewardship is the faithful management of everything God has entrusted to us.

Most Christians think about stewardship in terms of giving, budgeting, and wise financial decisions during their lifetime. However, stewardship also includes planning for the transfer of our resources after we are called home to the Lord.

A thoughtful estate plan can provide for loved ones, reduce burdens on family members, and continue supporting ministries that advance God's Kingdom for future generations.

At Faithbridge Church, we encourage believers to view wills, trusts, and legacy planning as important stewardship tools that can reflect faith, wisdom, generosity, and care for others.

Biblical Principles of Stewardship

- God owns everything, and we are stewards of resources entrusted to us (Psalm 24:1).
- Wise planning is encouraged (Proverbs 21:5).
- Providing for family is a biblical responsibility (1 Timothy 5:8).
- Leaving a legacy is commended (Proverbs 13:22).
- Faithful stewardship includes generosity and care for others (2 Corinthians 9:6–8).

Why Every Adult Needs a Will

- A will directs distribution of assets after death.
- A will allows you to name guardians and appoint an executor.
- Without a will, state law generally determines property distribution.

What Happens Without a Will?

- Potential delays, added expenses, and uncertainty for loved ones.

Understanding Trusts

- A trust is a legal arrangement in which a trustee manages assets for beneficiaries.
- Trusts can provide management, privacy, and continuity of oversight.

Common Types of Trusts

- Revocable Living Trust

- Irrevocable Trust
- Special Needs Trust
- Charitable Trust

Stewardship Beyond Our Lifetime: Leaving a Lasting Legacy

For many believers, one of the greatest joys is knowing that the resources God entrusted to them will continue advancing the Gospel long after their earthly life has ended.

Through a carefully prepared will or trust, members may choose to support future ministry efforts such as:

- Missions
- Discipleship ministries
- Church planting
- Benevolence ministries
- Children's and Youth ministries
- Community outreach

The Bible places a high value on caring for one's family. Estate planning is not presented as choosing between family and ministry, but as an opportunity to prayerfully consider how to provide for loved ones while also supporting the work of God's Kingdom.

Many members find joy in knowing that their faithfulness today can continue impacting lives for generations to come.

Including Faithbridge Church in Your Estate Plan

- Some members choose to include Faithbridge Church in their estate plans as a final act of stewardship and generosity. Estate gifts can help support future ministry opportunities, outreach efforts, discipleship programs, missions, benevolence ministries, and other Kingdom-focused initiatives.
- Gifts can be made through:
 - A specific dollar amount in a will or trust
 - A percentage of an estate
 - Life insurance beneficiary designations
 - Retirement account beneficiary designations
 - Appreciated securities
 - Real estate
 - A charitable trust
 - The residual balance of an estate after family bequests have been fulfilled

How Wills and Trusts Work Together

- Many estate plans use both a will and a trust.
- A will can direct remaining assets into a trust.
- A trust can provide detailed instructions on distributions.

Practical Stewardship Checklist

- Create or update your will.
- Review beneficiary designations.
- Consider whether a trust fits your situation.
- Prepare powers of attorney and health-care directives.
- Review your plan after major life changes.

A Legacy of Faithful Stewardship

- At Faithbridge Church, we believe stewardship is about much more than finances—it is about faithfully managing every blessing God has entrusted to us for His glory.
- A thoughtfully prepared estate plan can provide for loved ones, reduce burdens on family members, and create a lasting impact for future generations. Through wills, trusts, beneficiary designations, and charitable gifts, believers can continue supporting the spread of the Gospel and the ministries that have shaped their faith long after they are called home to the Lord.
- We encourage every member of Faithbridge Church to prayerfully consider how best to provide for their family while also investing in God's Kingdom through intentional legacy planning.

Questions About Legacy Giving?

If you would like additional information about including Faithbridge Church in your estate plans, please contact the church office. We would be happy to discuss stewardship and legacy-giving opportunities with you and your family.