

In "Beyond the Offering Plate: A Holistic Approach to Stewardship," editor Adam J. Copeland assembles a collection of essays that expand the traditional concept of stewardship beyond mere financial giving. This anthology delves into various dimensions of stewardship, including time, work, body, mind, spirit, community, and technology, advocating for a comprehensive understanding of the term.

The book comprises ten chapters, each authored by a diverse group of pastors, seminary professors, and church leaders. Notable contributors include Margaret P. Aymer, Kathleen A. Cahalan, MaryAnn McKibben Dana, David Gambrell, David P. King, Neal D. Presa, Ellie Roscher, Mary Hinkle Shore, and John W. Vest. Each chapter concludes with reflection questions and practical applications, facilitating deeper engagement and discussion among readers.

For instance, David P. King's chapter on financial stewardship emphasizes understanding the influence of money in our lives and promotes generosity as a way of life. David Gambrell discusses the stewardship of spiritual gifts, proposing practices that involve loving God and neighbors through various forms of service and worship. Kathleen A. Cahalan explores vocational stewardship, encouraging churches to support individuals in discerning their life's work as a form of stewardship.

Copeland enhances the book's utility by providing an annotated guide of related biblical texts and preaching themes corresponding to each chapter, making it a valuable resource for sermon planning and theological study.

"Beyond the Offering Plate" challenges readers to broaden their perspective on stewardship, viewing it not solely as a financial obligation but as a holistic approach to living faithfully. This resource is particularly beneficial for church leaders, seminary students, and congregations aiming to integrate a comprehensive understanding of stewardship into their communal and individual practices.