



DEVOTION: July 16

A Transmission's Function and Stewardship
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Our daughter's car recently had some unusual sounds coming from under the hood when she attempted to drive faster than 40 MPH. I offered to drive it and give her my opinion.

Not only did I hear the sounds, but I also could tell that her automatic transmission would not shift into overdrive.

Most dads out there can guess what happened next: I was blessed with the opportunity of finding a transmission shop to take it for an evaluation. And most car aficionados could guess the trouble: The transmission needed to be totally overhauled or replaced.

This transmission difficulty is like a modern-day parable. Sometimes there are unusual sounds transmitted from our lives that signal a failure to shift to overdrive in service to the Lord. Have you ever wondered why the emerging generations are failing to be committed stewards, even though in many cases they are coming out of families where their parents are committed stewards?

Gregory Bateson, in "Mind and Matter," states, "In the transmission of human culture, people always attempt to replicate, to pass on to the next generation the skills and values of the parents, but the attempt always fails because cultural transmission is geared to learning, not DNA."

Bateson's comments here give tremendous insight into the challenge the church faces in discipling members to become faithful stewards. To do so, we must not assume the discipline will emerge from one's DNA.

Think for a moment about what is done to help members grow in their understanding as disciples regarding stewardship. How long has it been since you studied a stewardship lesson or heard a sermon on stewardship?

Every congregation needs to put stewardship development plans on the calendar, or in time there might not be a church to attend. Will you be such a force for your church?