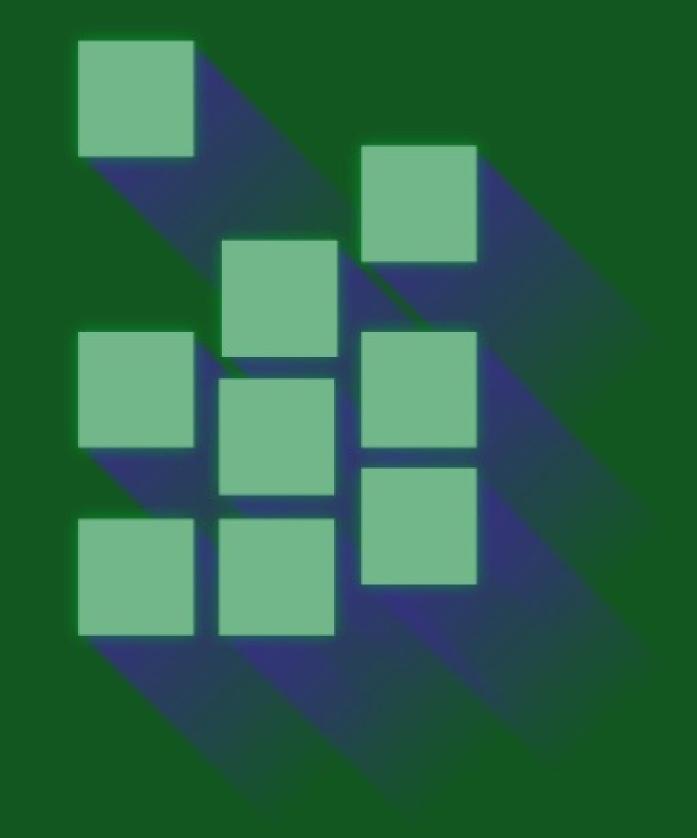


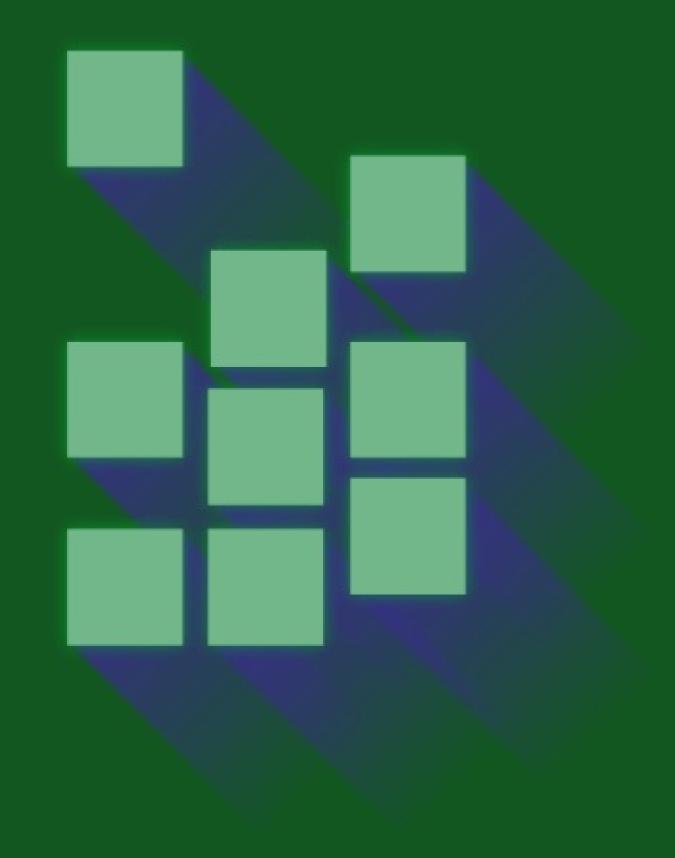
Steward

A steward is one who owns nothing but governs everything entrusted to them.



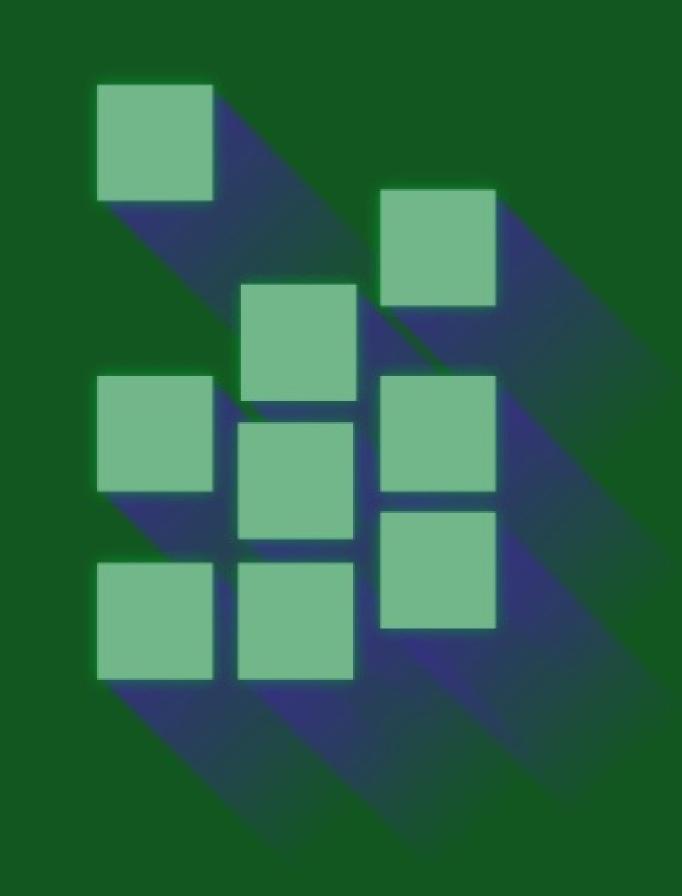
What are we saved for?

Stewardship isn't our identity, it is our vocation; our employment.



A steward leverages worldly wealth into eternal friendships.

Luke 16:9
I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

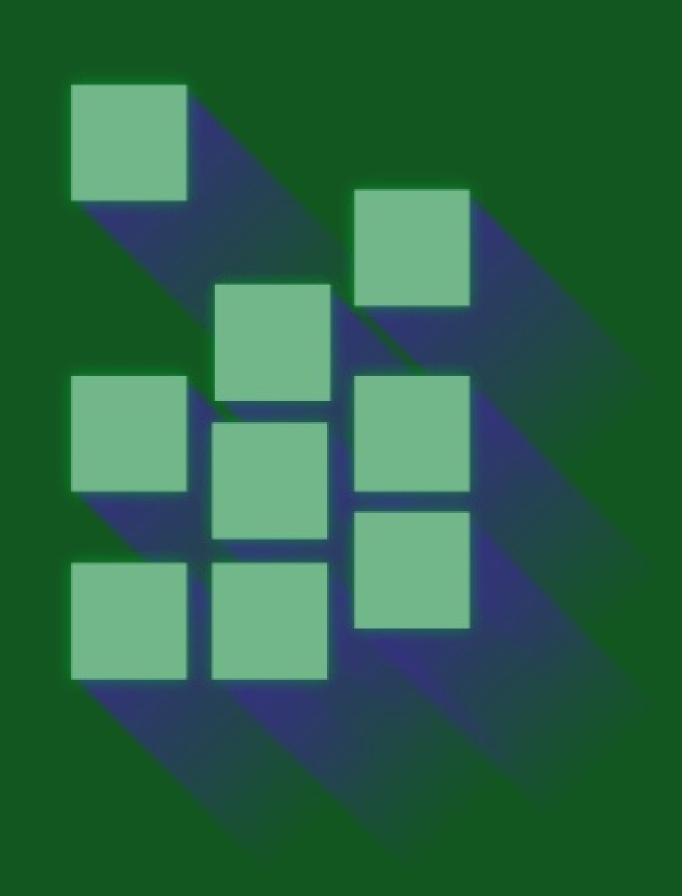


1. Stewards leverage wealth.

(they don't waste it.)

Luke 16:8

"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.

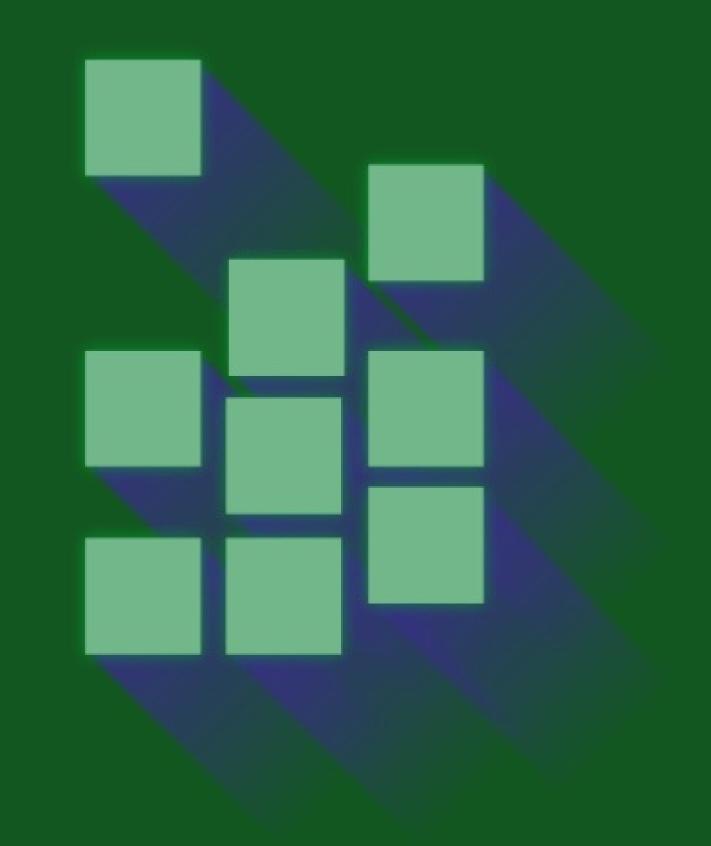




An interpretive key in narrative:

Something happens that you

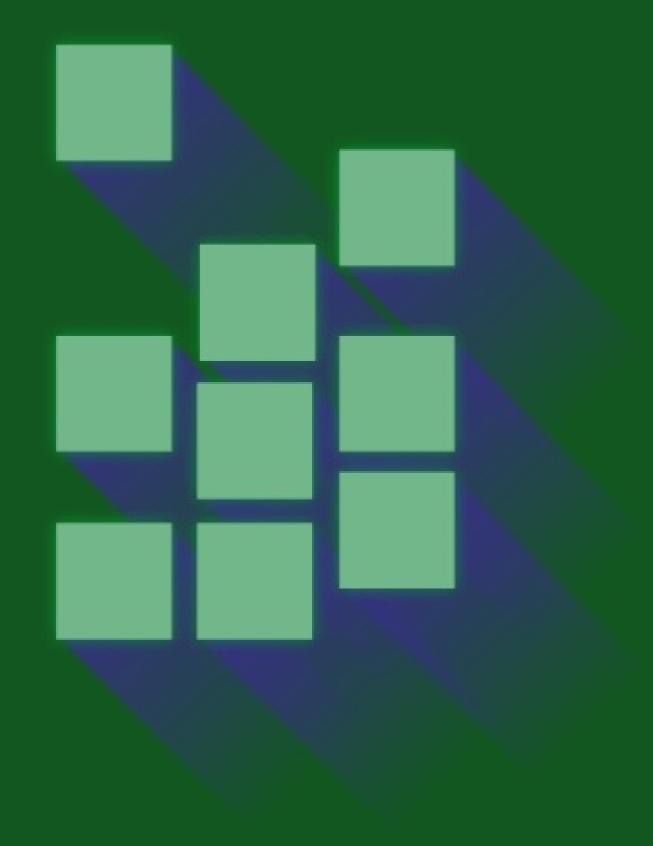
REALLY DON'T EXPECT.



The point:

The master was so incensed at his steward wasting his money, he <u>actually appreciates</u> the steward's ingenious dishonesty - because it's less infuriating than mindless waste.

At least he's investing for someone!

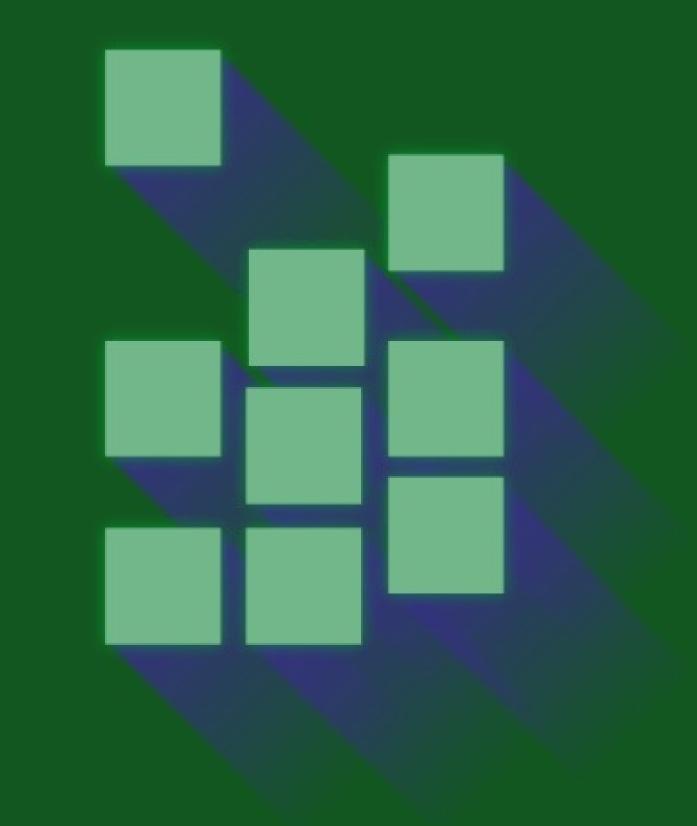


This is the infuriating thing God sees:

Luke 16:8

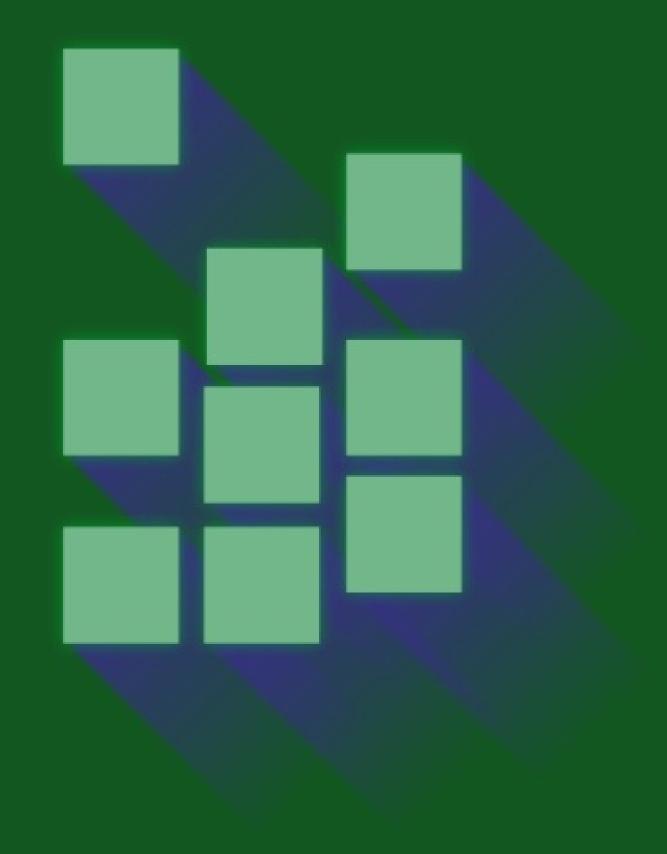
For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.

Charles Simeon: People of the world are more <u>earnest</u>, <u>more uniform</u>, <u>and more ingenious</u> in pursuing their intersts than the people of the light.



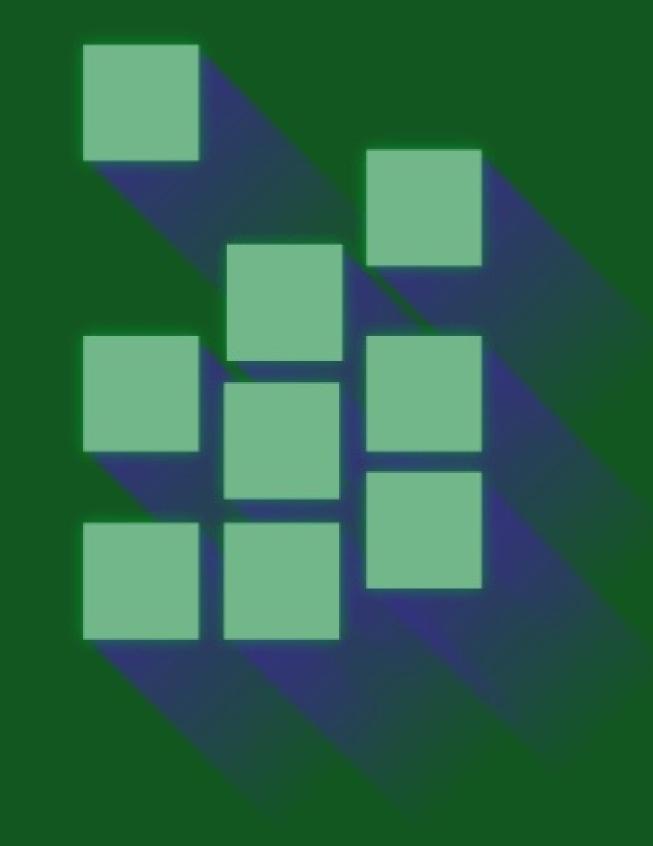
2. Spiritual stewards leverage passing wealth for enduring wealth

Luke 16:9
I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.



Paralels to us:

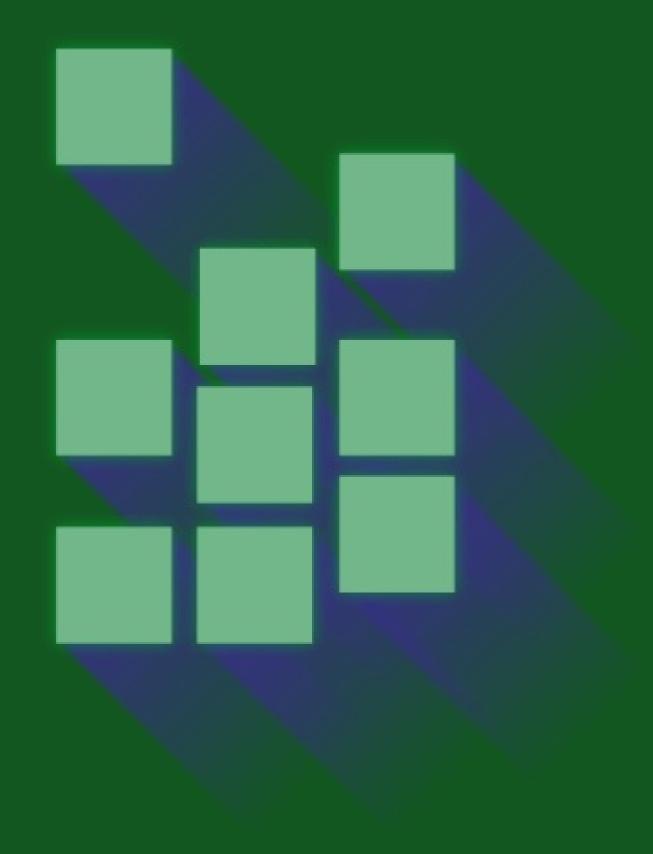
- 1. No wealth can be kept in its current form
- 2. Keeping wealth means it must be transferred to human capital
- 3. There is only a short time to transfer the wealth



Who are these "friends" that will welcome us?

Luke offers two groups:

- 1. The poor
- 2. Those who are far from God



How do we know that?

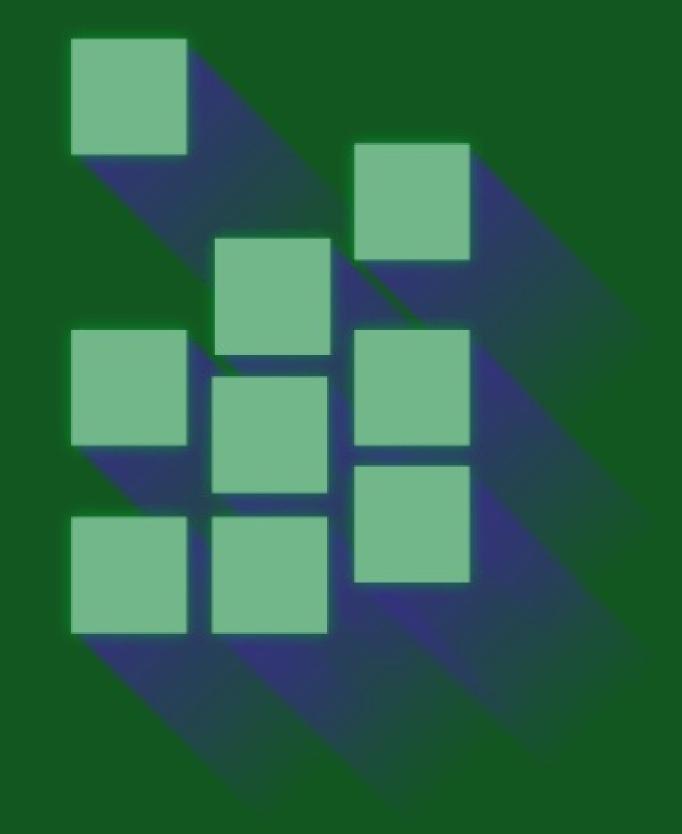
The context of Luke 14-16:

- 1. Chapter 14 Inclusion of the poor and stragglers
- 2. Chapter 15 God's passion for finding the lost
- 3. Chapter 16:19-31- The two themes of the rich man's appeal

Why the poor and the "lost"?

Poor - because the redeemed poor recieve disproportionate comfort in the Kingdom. They will be the wealthy.

Lost - because they will credit you with their presence in the Kingdom at all.



3. Kingdom investment proves spiriutal integrity.

Luke 16:10-12

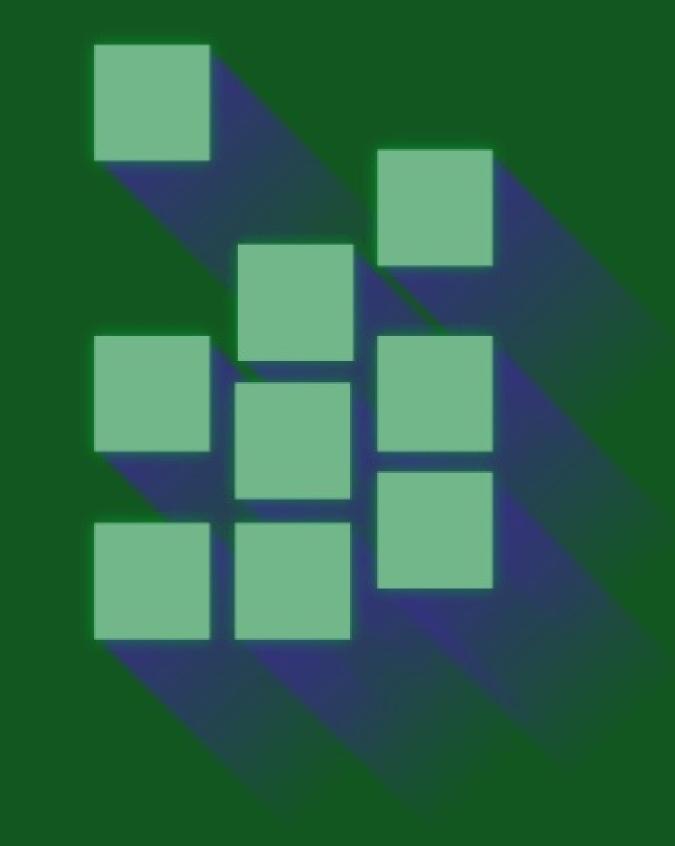
"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

Honesty vs. Integrity

To tell the truth and not lie.

Everything in your life make up one seemless whole.

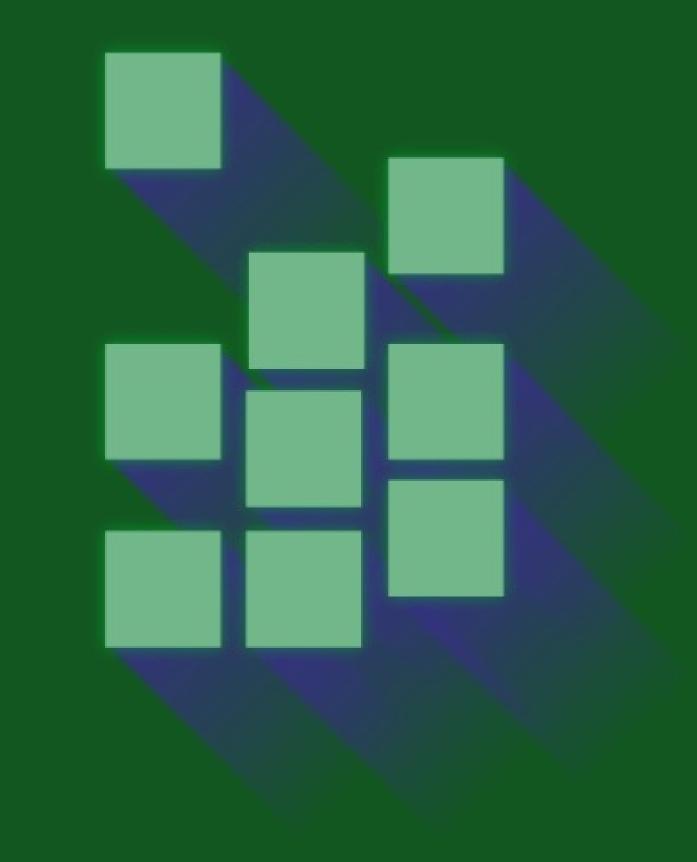
Honesty is good, but maturity is integrity.



The most common integrity divide for believers:

Luke 16:13

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."



Jesus' painful example:

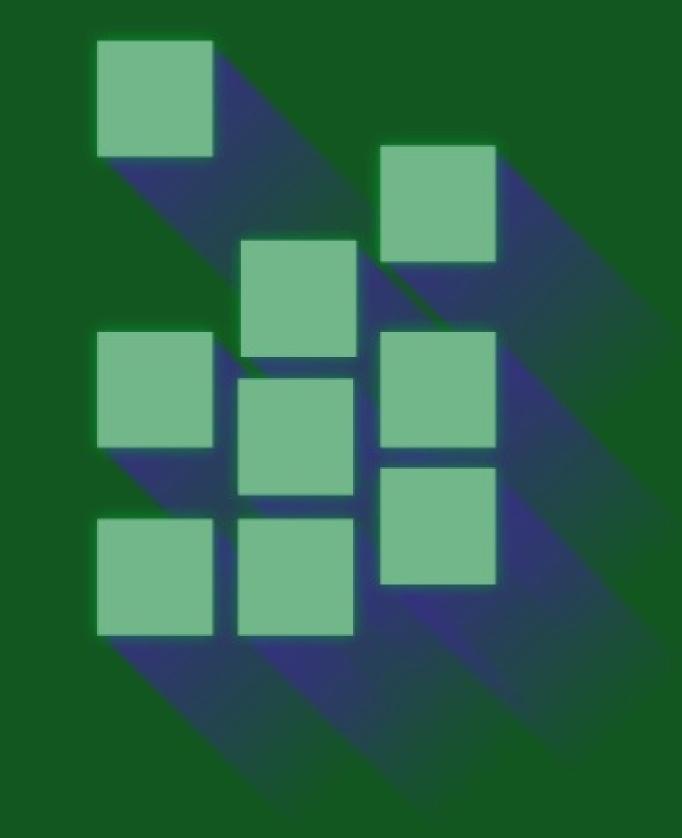
Luke 16:14-18

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight. "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law. Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

What about friendship with God?

James 4:4-6

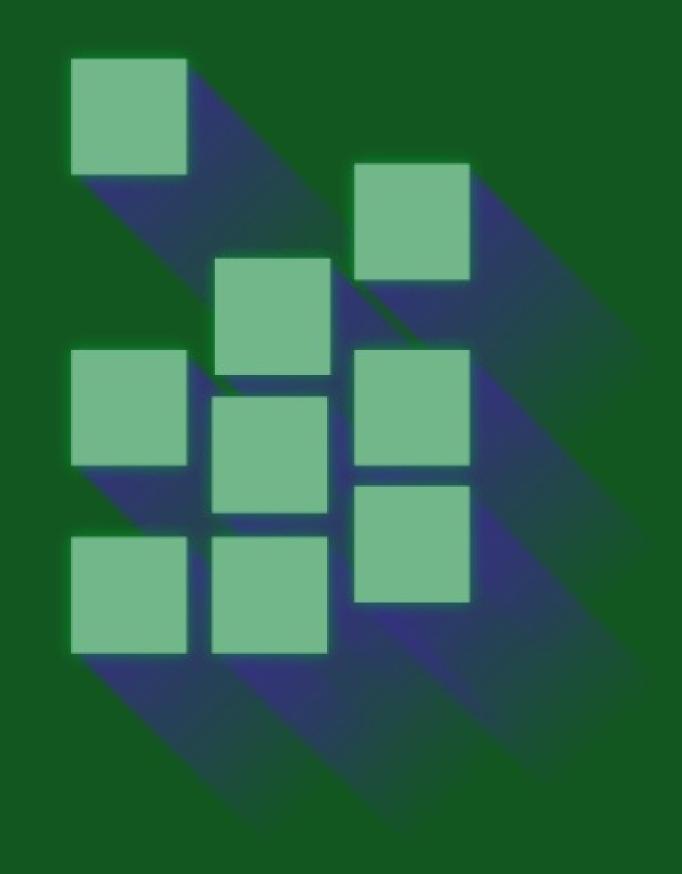
You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."



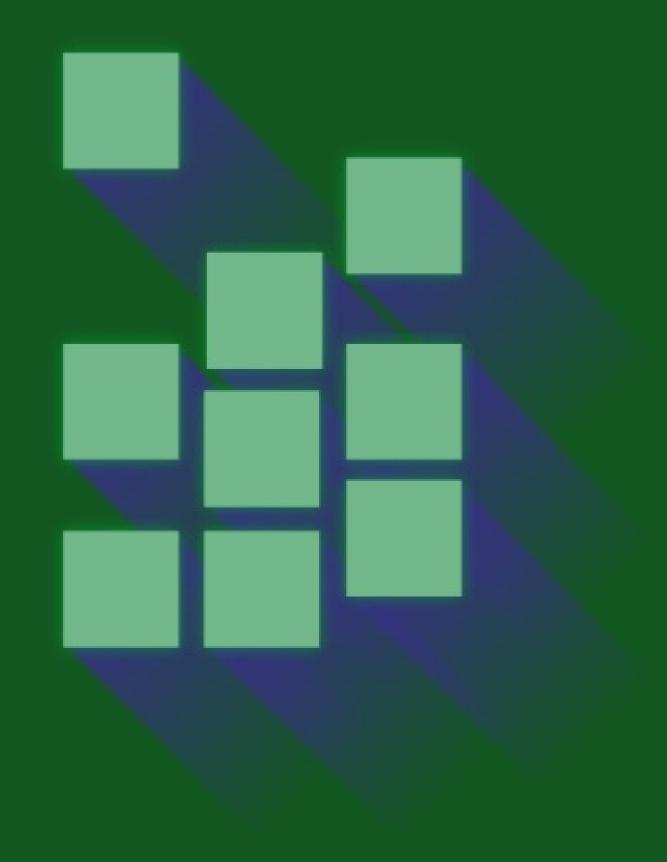
1. The same integrity that makes us friends in eternity proves our trustworthiness with God for eternity.

2. Maturity is expressed in prudence and integrity.

(not just obedience and honesty.)

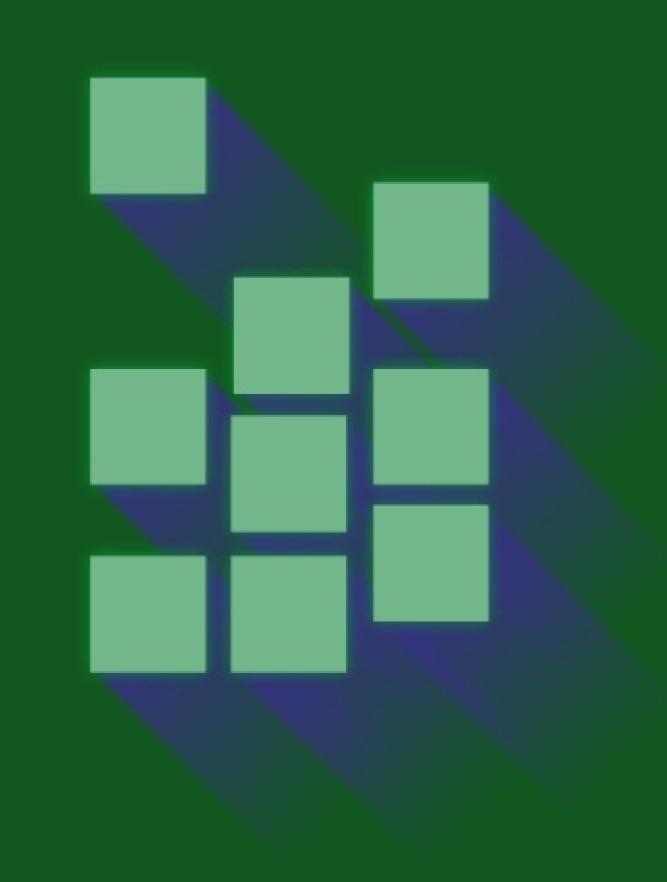


- 3. Make friends in eternal dwellings by:
 - 1. Helping the poor
 - 2. Seeking the lost
 - 3. Holding to integrity

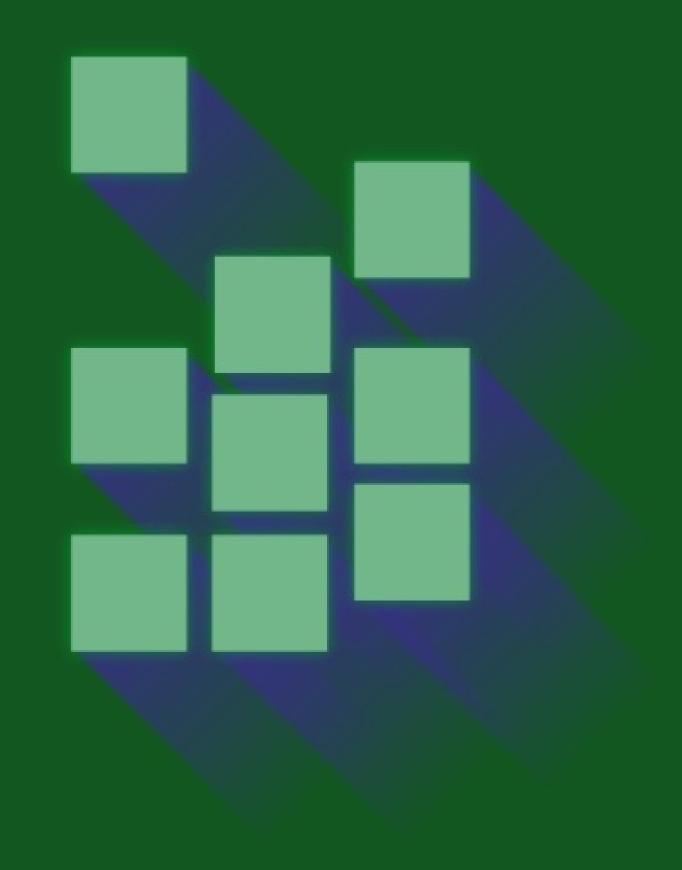


4. How we use our wealth is the inescapable test of our spiritual integrity.

You cannot have integrity in faith without embracing generosity, and putting greed to death.



5. The hold of worldliness will always make us unfaithful in our trust, becuse it will divide our integrity.



6. Therefore we must constantly return faith, the Kingdom and our identity in Christ.

We must remember what we are saved for.

