

**THE STEWARD LEADER:  
TRANSFORMING PEOPLE,**

powerful way. They seek no glory for themselves, but find great joy in seeing others prosper. (p. 17)

The relationship of the Steward Leader involves a dedicated passion and commitment to the lordship of Jesus which requires that I be like Jesus before I do His work on earth. “This great battle, as the internal work of transformation by the Holy Spirit,” says Rodin, “cannot be separated from our vocation and calling as leaders” (p. 55). Coming to terms with the lordship of Jesus requires that the Steward Leader recognize God as owner, and self as steward of all that God puts in his charge. “Ownership is bondage” (p. 64) and the drive to own must be replaced by the lordship of Jesus before the Christian leader can function as a faithful steward. Rodin places the Holy Spirit at the center of the process that results in the creation of a faithful Steward Leader.

The Steward Leader model Rodin proposes is built around four distinct relationships:

1. Stewards of our relationship with our Creator
2. Stewards of our relationship with ourselves
3. Stewards of our relationship with our neighbor
4. Stewards of our relationship with God’s creation

All of these relationships are organic in nature in that they require ongoing care and intentional development. The leader’s relationship to God can never be taken for granted or treated as a static condition without peril. Likewise, the accountability of self to the covenant of faithfulness must be maintained to avoid the natural drift of ownership attitudes toward God and those we have been charged to lead as His stewards. The nurture and building of a community around godly principles is not a means to an end but is an end in itself—the reconciliation goal of the kingdom of God. And the world in which we live, given to us to care for as stewards at creation, remains our responsibility and must be approached intentionally and with an attitude of obedience that is integral to the entire scope of leading as a Steward Leader.

Rodin gives us a fresh and helpful look at a leadership model that emerges from the Christian context but with clear application to the contemporary secular context. The four posts of stewardship—God, self, community, and creation (the planet we inhabit)—focus to provide a refreshing balance in understanding the calling of the leader holistically as opposed to the production model (doing) so prevalent in practice

and church growth literature. The rejection of self as owner in exchange for self as steward is the basis for leadership behavior that is again frequently challenged by ownership language applied to empowerment models within the church.

The leader's stewardship responsibility calls for care of the spiritual