

Tithe Is Not a New Covenant Form of Giving

Tithe is a form of preordained, repetitive giving. It is a practice of the Old Covenant. There are certain things that the New Testament says about giving that show it clearly has no place in New Covenant Christian practice.

Jesus said that when we give we should not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing.

"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:1-4)

This simple advice clearly excludes tithe which is a type of giving that is pre ordained. The correct form of giving in the New Testament is to give as God leads toward the purposes of the gospel. Alms (charity toward the poor) is rarely heard of in Christian groups today. Look closely at Jesus' advice on giving here. He calls publicly known giving hypocritical. I think of some church leaders who can tell you exactly how many and which people in their church pay tithe. I think of specific advantages that are sometimes given to those who tithe within a church group. It seems much greater to give secretly, that God may reward openly.

Understanding this we can see that Jesus' advice is to be free from repetitive, preordained forms of giving and rather to be led by the Spirit of God to be free to give to the needs that He directs. In order to give toward the gospel one must simply find the leading of God which is directed by the needs that we as believers can reach at any given time. Therefore different Christians should in different places, be giving in different ways. There is no standardized practice of giving.

We can see this in the bible. In the early church in Jerusalem there were poor and needy people, specifically it mentions widows of which there were many at that time under Roman rule. Therefore the bible states that some people were being led by God to sell certain possessions and give to a feeding program with the church. This was not a permanent feature nor was everyone giving to this specific feeding plan. We see later in the bible in Corinth that Paul and his fellow laborers were traveling and mention to the Corinthians to take up a collection. He tells them to set aside some goods on the first day of the week and he is going to come soon after and will pick up that collection and take it to where? To the poor which are in Jerusalem. The giving was toward the present need, certainly not a permanent feature of practice of giving within the group.

In the New Testament church there was no storehouse. There was no rule or example that each church must have its own collection for itself. The giving was toward the needs of the gospel as they occurred and as God led them.

If we look at other simple advice in the New Testament about giving we see the Bible tells us to owe no one anything but to love.....

"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8)

Tithes and offerings since they are pre ordained forms of giving which will go on for months or years and perhaps generations, certainly carry with them a sense of being owed. And a very easily tithe can become to taught to people within church groups as something which is owed.

We can read about Jesus telling us to not serve God and money....

Mt 6:24* No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve **God and mammon**.

Lu 16:13* No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve **God and mammon**.

Serving God is one thing, serving money is yet another. They are not meant to mix. What is very rarely ever talked of among Christians is that serving God means that every Christian ought to have a ministry. Tradition has polarized ministry and turned it into a ruling authority that carries much of its power from the collecting of money. When Christians collect and store money for themselves in the structures that they utilize they are not giving in the New Testament way, which is to be Spirit led, but rather they giving to themselves.

We are meant to give to other Christians' ministries. But ministry is not meant to be a permanent position. Ministry is instead for all believers and to be ordained by God at any given time as He directs.