

### What is Tithing and is it Still a Requirement?

**Intro:** In the House Church movement, there has been a backlash against the notion of giving - especially of tithing. Indeed, it is true that the word "tithing" appears in the New Testament only a few times, and in none of those instances does it imply that disciples of Jesus follow the Old Testament rule or law regarding tithing.

Except...there was this one time when someone asked Jesus about paying taxes to the government (which, by the way, is significantly more than a tithe - and probably was then too). Jesus responded that we *should* pay our taxes. But he didn't leave it there. He said, "Give to Caesar what is due Caesar, and to God what is God's" (Matthew 22:21). The implication is, of course, that there was some expectation that disciples of Jesus were expected to give to the work of God. This week you're going to look at what that implication is and answer the question for yourself about what tithing is and whether or not those in the church are "required" to fork it over. Either way, you'll also get to decide what your responsibility about giving is.

**What the Bible Teaches:** Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

First, begin by using a concordance to look at all the verses in the New Testament that mention "Tithe" or "Tithing" (if you use an NIV, use the word "Tenth").

**What do these passages teach about the New Testament church's view about money and wealth?**

1 Timothy 6:6-18; Luke 16:13; Luke 6:30

**What do these passages teach about giving?**

Matthew 22:21; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3;

**Describe the early church's practice of giving (and how was the money spent?)?**

Acts 4:32-47; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Acts 11:28-30

**What I Believe:** Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about tithing. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

**“What is tithing and is it still a requirement?”**

Write your final response here: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Articulations:** Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

**Therefore:** Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.