

Biblical Considerations for Giving, Receiving & Loving Among Brothers and Sisters within a Local Congregation

Numbers 18:21-24 (cf. **Leviticus 27:30-33**; **1 Corinthians 9:13-14**; **1 Timothy 5:17-18**; **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**)

– Levitical Tithe (10%) required of God's People to give every year to support the Levites (those ministering to God's People by instructing God's People in God's Word/Torah).

Deuteronomy 14:22-27 (cf. **Deuteronomy 12:6-12**) – Festival Tithe (10%) required of God's People to give every year for worship in God's presence and shared with the Levites (God's ministers) in sacred fellowship.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29 – Poor Tithe (10% every 3 years) required of God's People to give to support "the poor" (Levites/God's appointed ministers, displaced, orphans, and widows; all individuals with no physical inheritance within the Land) among them (people involved in the life of the covenantal community; *not* the world at-large).

- A *minimum* of 10% total in obligatory biblical giving to God for His Covenantal Community has never been the norm.
 - Giving and service to other good and noble causes, within and outside of God's Covenantal Community, does *not* replace obligatory biblical giving, but it is a form of giving *above* that which is required to go towards the Church.
- To whom was/is obligatory giving used to support and why?
- What is the single most important thing you cherish and need from the local congregation? How does your giving reflect that (or not)?
 - 'The Ministry of the Word' has primacy over 'The Ministry of Tables.' 'Ministry of Tables' ('deaconing') is voluntary service to support 'The Ministry of the Word' (cf. **Acts 6:1-7**)

Mark 12:41-44 (cf. **Luke 21:1-6**; **Matthew 6:19-34**) – The Widow's Mite, Earthly Treasures, and Serving Material Possessions due to Unnecessary Anxiety or Preoccupation over Perceived Earthly Needs

- It is *not* about the amount you give to the Church. It *is* about what you keep for yourself and *why*.
- Not only does God evaluate your heart based on what you keep for yourself and why, He also knows the intentions of your heart in your observable giving (**Acts 5:1-11**).

Acts 2:43-47, 4:32-37; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16 - Giving to those in Genuine Need who are Laboring and Those Who Need to Genuinely Give and Labor

- What personal or congregational surplus is there that could be used to meet, if any, the needs of laboring and devoted Brethren?
- Whether it is 2% or 22%, a Believer, as a clear and committed Member of a local congregation, should be giving regularly financially in conjunction with regularly attending the weekly Assembly's Service and ministering where they can in accord with their God-given gifts and talents.
- Do you think the Church primarily exists to meet your personal perceived earthly needs, or do you understand that you have been saved to glorify and serve God as the Bride and Body of our Bridegroom and Head, Christ Jesus?
 - Does your life center around your Lord, coming to Him within the congregation for joyful thanksgivings, sorrowful petitions, and burdensome intercessions, or is your life centered on your own conveniences and desires?
- What are your priorities, and how is that reflected (or not) in your giving and involvement as a Member of a local congregation? Can you make this pledge?
 - **1.** I Will Be a Unifying Church Member **2.** I Will Not Let the Church Be About My Preferences and Desires **3.** I Will Pray for My Church Leaders **4.** I Will Lead My Family to Be Healthy Church Members **5.** I Will Be a Functioning Member **6.** I Will Treasure Church Membership as a Gift

Every Member of Christ's Body is Valuable and has a Function.