

Is Tithing a Christian Requirement

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tithe: the tenth part of agricultural produce or personal income set apart as an offering to God or for works of mercy, or the same amount regarded as an obligation or tax for the support of the church, priesthood, or the like (See 'tithe', Random House Dictionary, Random House Inc., 2012; See also New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, 3rd Edition, American Heritage, 2005)



That was the best sermon on giving I've ever heard.

I grew up listening to sermons on tithe in a handful of churches, and based on those sermons, I always believe that tithing was a requirement. Christians should be aware of the Scriptures before jumping to conclusions. Most pastors based their sermons in Malachi:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. -Malachi 3:10

The pastors I've seen preach on tithe say that this is a commandment, saying that we are required to tithe, but again, as we have seen in many Roman Catholic beliefs (see article: Corruptions of Christianity: Roman Catholicism), it is dangerous to take one verse out of context and make an entire doctrine out of it. Malachi told us many times who the Lord was speaking to when He said this:

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even **this whole nation.**
-Malachi 3:9

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye **sons of Jacob are not consumed.**
-Malachi 3:6

The burden of the word of the LORD to **Israel by Malachi.**
-Malachi 1:1

The same pastors that will preach FOR tithing as a requirement (law) in Malachi are the same ones that preach AGAINST the requirement (law) of ceremonies in Leviticus. In Leviticus 14, the Lord commands that a bird be killed and its blood sprinkled throughout the house of a formerly sick man as a ceremony that the home has been cleansed, so if we are required to tithe, are we also required to sprinkle the blood?

And the LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying, **Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them...**
-Leviticus 1:1-2

When our Lord Jesus Christ came to pay the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of mankind, he freed us from the burdens of the law. Though we still keep God's moral laws, because they are a witness to His character that we portray via the Holy Spirit, we are not bound to the laws of the Old Testament.

(For more information about the 3 types of laws in the Bible, read "Why do Christians follow some laws, but not others?" here at creationliberty.com)

Even the ten percent (tenth) that many churches teach as a requirement has never been a requirement of Christians. In fact, Hebrews 7 talks about the time where Abraham gave tithes to Melchisedec (Gen 14:20), which was traditionally upheld by the nation of Israel (due to Jacob's promise at Bethel), but if you read through the whole chapter, you'll see where our Lord Jesus Christ is the reason we are not bound to a law of tithing, any more than we are bound to a law of sacrifice.

If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec [i.e. Jesus Christ], and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the **priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.**

-Hebrews 7:11-12

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also **he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.**

-Hebrews 8:6

Shall we prove all things and hold fast that which is good as the Bible commands us? (1Thes 5:21) If you are a Christian who has tithed 10% or more of your income for many years, has the Lord given you so much that you had to reject blessings because you did not have room in your life, home, or bank account? If that has never happened to you, don't be afraid to be honest about it, and remember that the promises of Malachi and Leviticus were not made to you, but to the children of Israel. For example, the lands in Israel were not promised to the gentile Christians, but specifically to the children of Israel, so we should not expect God to give us the lands in the middle east, and likewise the promises of storehouse tithing were not given to gentile Christians, and therefore, we should not expect God to fulfill those promises that He did not give to us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ not only gave us Salvation, but was gracious and merciful to give Christians brand new promises:

Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.** Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? **Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?**

-Matthew 6:25-27

If we Christians have truly accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, why do we think can add unto ourselves by observing and doing the works of the law via tithe? Why do we not want to accept the new and better promises Jesus Christ gave us?

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (**For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:**) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

-Matthew 6:31-33

If we seek after the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ, God will automatically provide what we need. That's a better promise, and one that is provable.

We are intended to be free from obligations of tithe, but despite this, many pastors still preach a works-based doctrine from the law of the Old Testament that helps fill their church building's coffers, and since many

Christians follow their pastors instead of the Bible, they are deceived that their duty is to drop money in the plate to make sure their church director's office has air conditioning. In fact, according to research done by *Christian History Magazine*, tithing was not generally practiced in the Christian churches of America until 1895, when the Wesleyan church attempted to get out of financial trouble in the mid 19th century:

“Wesley Chapel in Cincinnati has financial trouble. In desperation, it tries ‘suppers, festivals, lectures, stereopticon shows, subscriptions, and the whole round of man-made schemes and devices,’ according to layman William G. Roberts. Finally, Roberts and others introduce the concept of ‘storehouse tithing,’ which turns the church around. Tithing is revived as a popular practice in U.S. churches.”

See "Money in Christian History (II): Christian History Timeline - Dates and Events Regarding Money," *Christian History Magazine*, Issue #19, p. 25 [www.christianhistorymagazine.org]

Why would a church ever have to get into "financial trouble?" This is not a matter of people who are starving or homeless; this is a matter of people who have entered into debt by trying to build buildings and get fancy stuff that the church shouldn't be getting into because it sets a bad example to the world, and because that debt is unbiblical:

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

-Romans 13:8

We should not assume our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are incompetent. If the Lord wills a church building to stand, He will send the Holy Spirit to do what needs to be done to make it happen. Instead, Christians take matters into their own hands, taking on the traditions of man-made devices, not allowing the Spirit to work as needed.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

-Romans 12:2

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

-John 15:19

On the other hand, we are not to uncharitably let our ministers, evangelists, and missionaries go hungry. With liberty in Christ comes the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, and with the Spirit, we will develop the habits of charity. Please do not think that charity simply means putting cash in your church's offering plate once a week, or dropping off your children's old clothes at the Salvation Army once a year, because, according to the Scriptures, charity means much more than that:

charity: 1) In a general sense, love, benevolence, good will; that disposition of heart which inclines men to think favorably of their fellow men to think favorably of their fellow men, and to do them good. In a theological sense, it includes supreme love to God, and universal good will to men.

(1Cor 8, Col 3, 1Tim 1)

2) In a more particular sense, love, kindness, affection, tenderness, springing from natural relations; as the charities of father, son and brother.

3) Liberality to the poor, consisting in almsgiving or benefactions, or in gratuitous services to relieve them in distress.

4) Alms; whatever is bestowed gratuitously on the poor for their relief.

5) Liberality in gifts and services to promote public objects of utility, as to found and support bible societies, missionary societies, and others.

6) Candor; liberality in judging of men and their actions; a disposition which inclines men to think and judge favorably, and to put the best construction on words and actions which the case will admit. The highest exercise of charity, is charity towards the uncharitable.

(See 'charity', Noah Webster's Dictionary, 1828, retrieved Jan 19, 2012, [http://1828.mshaffer.com/d/search/word,charity])

Webster's 1828 Dictionary pulls its definitions primarily from the Word of God, and from this description, we can see that charity concerns the following:

- Judging of Others (Mat 7:2)
- Treatment of Others (Mat 7:12)
- Humility Towards Others (give your adversary the benefit of the doubt)
- Meeting Physical and Emotional Needs of Others
- Providing Gifts and Services for Evangelists and Missionaries of God's Word
- Providing Gifts and Services for Local Ministry Needs
- Demonstrating the Love of Our Lord Jesus Christ

If Christians were charitable, instead of focusing on tithe, they would see what happens with their giving, and would know how to give more effectively, and they would also not be limited to just ten percent. Sometimes, God does not convict a Christian to give anything, and sometimes, he convicts a Christian to give all they have, but many are not listening to the pull of the Holy Spirit to do what is pleasing to the Lord, and instead just drop money in a plate every week, giving it over to others without knowing where it goes nor why. As we have seen with the government and taxation, letting someone else take control of the spending of our money while we sit in ignorance can lead to a lot of grief.

Consider for a moment the woman in the Bible who gave two mites. (Mark 12:41-44) She did not tithe, or she would have cut a fraction of one of her mites and tossed it in, but instead she gave all that she had in charity. Christ singled out what she gave as more significant than all the rich men who gave a portion of their wealthy abundance because she gave all, not as a law, but she gave charitably with liberty via faith.

Some Christians may say, "Well isn't my tithing every week being charitable?" No. **If we think our tithe is a REQUIREMENT, it is no longer charity, but an obligation of the law.** For example, do you consider sales tax to be charity? Do you pay gasoline tax out of charity? Tithe cannot be charity anymore than taxes can be charity because there is no giving in love if we are required to pay.

If Christians followed the Holy Spirit for guidance in charitable matters, the churches of America would be just fine in getting rid of the "storehouse" tithing sermons that teach a works-based doctrine. The real desperation of pastors holding on to the "storehouse" tithing sermons is in the knowledge that most church buildings would not survive without forcing a guilt-based REQUIREMENT on Christians to seek after the law, and many believers know this to be true after considering how few people tithe as it is. This should clearly demonstrate to the Christian world that we have an awful lot of Christians not following after the Holy Spirit concerning charity and liberty in our Lord Jesus Christ, but rather, we have people seeking after the old law, based on whatever the pastors tell the congregation, without searching the Scriptures to prove the truth.

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

-Galatians 3:23-26

I've been in many different church buildings, and I see enormous auditoriums, huge bay windows or stained glass, and many other luxury items. I think to myself, "Is this what people are tithing for? Soft pews, HD monitors, and elaborate chandeliers?" The Christian, of course, will say "No." However, we are supposed to PROVE all things, and hold fast that which is good. (1Thes 5:21) Though some churches truly take collections to help with ministries, local and global, there are many others that do very little ministry with the money they receive and create large amounts of elaborate waste.

The Schaeffer Institute gathered polls from over 1,000 pastors in the California in 2006, and what they found was very interesting:

“Eighty- one percent (81%) of the pastors said there was no regular discipleship program or effective effort of mentoring their people or teaching them to deepen their Christian formation at their church (remember these are the Reformed and Evangelical—not the mainline pastors!).”

-Dr. Richard J. Krejcir, “Statistics on Pastors,” Schaeffer Institute, 2007, retrieved Feb 2, 2012, [www.intothyword.org]

If there is not much mentorship or discipleship going on, what is the point of the church? Isn't that what the gathering of believers together is for? Why this would happen starts to make more sense when we look at another statistic they found:

“Seven hundred fifty-six (756 or 72%) of the pastors we surveyed stated that they only studied the Bible when they were preparing for sermons or lessons. This left only 38% who read the Bible for devotions and personal study.”

-Dr. Richard J. Krejcir, “Statistics on Pastors,” Schaeffer Institute, 2007, retrieved Feb 2, 2012, [www.intothyword.org]

Focus on the Family, Barna, and Fuller Seminary all did similar studies and came back with similar results:

“Seventy percent said the only time they spend studying the Word is when they are preparing their sermons... Fifty percent of pastors are so discouraged that they would leave the ministry if they could, but have no other way of making a living.”

-Dr. Richard J. Krejcir, “Statistics on Pastors,” Schaeffer Institute, 2007, retrieved Feb 2, 2012, [www.intothyword.org]

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

-1 Timothy 6:10

Is it possible you're paying someone to stand in front of your congregation because he doesn't want to find another job? Have you proved where your tithe is going? So far, every Christian I've talked to says, “Well, my church isn't like that.” So I guess the churches where these statistics are coming from don't exist? Folks, we need to get more involved in our giving and with our congregations to prove the truth:

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

-Romans 12:2

I'm not saying that all churches and pastors are untrustworthy and dishonest, but we Christians need to wake up to what's happening around us, and get back to the Scripture on issues of giving. Just because we Christians have done something, or been taught something, all our lives, doesn't mean it's true. Tithing, just by definition, is a REQUIREMENT of the church or of the pastors therein, and most churches are pushing this “storehouse tithing” as a necessity to the congregations:

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

-2 Corinthians 9:7

We have to search the Scriptures and PROVE what is true. With the knowledge we have of the Word, and love we share via the Holy Spirit, let's take this opportunity to give alms the Biblical way.

alms: money, food, or other donations given to the poor or needy; anything given as charity

(See 'alms', Random House Dictionary, Random House Inc., 2012; See also Collins English Dictionary, 10th Edition, William Collins Sons & Co., 2009)

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.

-Matthew 6:1



We're to do everything we can to make sure other men don't know about our giving, but so often, I see people donate to a church to have their name put on a list or plaque. Others will pay by check (which gives all your information), and if people think that the church leadership doesn't see who pays the most, and that the influence of the giver is not taken into consideration in the church's decisions, they're lying to themselves. In fact, how many of those around us see our giving when the offering plate is passed in church?

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, **that there be no gatherings when I come.**

-1 Corinthians 16:2

Paul even preferred that there be no gatherings for offering when he came to preach to the Corinthians, but rather that each person, in private, gave as the Lord had prospered him. (i.e. FREEWILL giving). This shows us that we should give secretly, and do so outside of the congregation, rather than during a sermon.

Most of our charitable practices, if we give alms in charity, are not done within the church building we may attend. The Lord may lead us to give to other charitable causes for missionaries around the world. Sometimes, the Lord will show us that our unsaved next-door neighbor has a need that we can fill. Whatever the situation, alms goes to where the Lord individually shows us it needs to go, and Christians should be active and aware of who we give our alms to and where it goes, instead of handing it over to someone else to decide for us.

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

-Matthew 7:6

If your congregation has a need, find out what it is and see how you can help provide for that need, but I urge Christians to stop focusing on the law and false requirements of tithe. Christians should not seek to be bound by the law, but rather, accept the liberty given to us by our Lord. Let's start turning to our Lord Jesus Christ in prayer, and ask Him to reveal to us the needs of our neighbors, our adversaries, and our evangelists and preachers, so we can practice being humble and charitable Christians whose actions will give honor and praise to God Almighty.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is **charity**. [not tithe!]

-1 Corinthians 13:13

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and **be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.**

-Galatians 5:1

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things,

may abound to every good work... For the administration of this service **not only supplieth the want of the saints**, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and **for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men**; And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.
 -2 Corinthians 9:6-15

But the push for churches to gather up more tithers will get worse with time. Some churches are beginning to install **tithing kiosks** so that people can quick pay with a credit card in churches.



What happened to not being seen among men?

Most of these people are paying with a credit card, not a bank card. What does the Bible say about that?

The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower [is] servant to the lender.
 -Proverbs 22:7

And if ye lend [to them] of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinner[s] also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.
 -Luke 6:34

These churches are encouraging Christians to enter into debt and servitude to corporations. A credit card uses borrowed money that doesn't belong to the person using it. How can it be called a "Giving Center," when they aren't giving their own money?

"SecureGive currently [as of 2007] operates in 25 churches around the country. One of them is Family Church in West Monroe, Louisiana, where Terry Taylor is the executive pastor. 'We wanted to help those who were not giving to start walking in obedience,' says Taylor. 'We feel that is being achieved.'"

-"ATMs: Automatic Tithing Machines," Leadership Journal, 2007, retrieved June 22, 2013, [http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2007/summer/13.14.html]

This preacher doesn't care so much about Christians walking in the charity of our Lord Jesus Christ who loves a cheerful giver, but walking in obedience to the church and "clergy" from their ever increasing pressure to give more money. These kiosks will start creating lines after sermons where people will stand around waiting to give, all the while being seen by everyone in halls and lobbies, thereby increasing their personal incentive to give. **[And don't forget to take your receipt so you can write off your donation on IRS tax forms!]**
 (Read "501c3: The Devil's Church" here at creationliberty.com for more details)

"Phil Martin of the National Association of Church Business Administrators says that Automated Tithing Machines might only be the beginning. 'Whether we'll have an offering plate with a card reader one day, who knows,' he said. 'But we're certainly not far from that.'"

-"ATMs: Automatic Tithing Machines," Leadership Journal, 2007, retrieved June 22, 2013, [http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2007/summer/13.14.html]



Why would these churches need card readers to make it easier for people to give more? Why is there so much focus on getting money? This is an image Joel Osteen's home, and multi-story houses and extensive shrubbery around his fenced-in estate, along with luxury vehicles can be very expensive. I mean, he's supposed to be ordained of God, so your job as "laity" is to make sure you

fork over your paycheck to make sure he's provided lavish comforts, otherwise he can't teach you the truth.

Robert Schuller has no choice but to have a shining monument to be seen from miles away, and he needs you to hand over your hard-earned money so they can provide an organ bigger than your house, and maintain the entire facility at 72 degrees Fahrenheit year-round, otherwise he can't provide you with quality television that not only offers you the best quality praise music, but also can give you a great deal on porcelain bald eagles at the low, low price of only \$29.95 each. What would happen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ if you don't help maintain this place?

(The Crystal Cathedral filed bankruptcy in 2010.)

Not just mainstream churches, but even many evangelical churches today have turned into businesses, rather than ministries. Giving in charity is part of the doctrines of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we should be teaching that, but the pressured giving from storehouse tithing sermons is not the doctrine of the New Testament dispensation. I pray our Lord Jesus Christ would cleanse His Church of those seeking a paycheck, and replace them with humble preachers who will be salt and teach righteousness.

