

CORE VALUES

Why What We Believe Defines Who We Are

The Economy of God

Genesis 14:14-24

Introduction: We are moving now from the general principles of God's ownership of all the material wealth of the universe, and our role as general managers under His Lordship of all that He has allowed us to use. In this study we will consider the ways in which we recognize God's ultimate ownership of all we have as well as our reflection of His lovingkindness and gracious provision in all that we do. We are the people of the Most High God...we are designed to reflect His glory and image in our behavior.

I. The Tithe, or "Tenth Part," is a Recognition of God's Ownership & Blessings

A. The tithe is a general principle of recognizing God's blessings, even before the official giving of the Law.

1. Many are inclined to view the tithe as only applying to the Law
2. Several passages prove that it was a well known principle even before:
 - a. Genesis 14:20—Abraham gives a tithe through Melchizedek
 - b. Genesis 28:22—Jacob promises a tithe of God's blessings
3. However it is calculated, 10% is a recognized measure of honoring God

Lev 5:11	Lev 6:20	Lev 27:32
Neh 10:38	Heb 7:2-6	Lev 27:30
Num 18:21-26	Deut 12:17	Deut 14:22
Deut 26:12	2 Ch 31:5-6	Mal 3:10
Matt 23:23	Luke 11:42	

B. The tithe also comes from the "first fruits" as a recognition of God's right of ownership and the benefit of His blessings

1. It was always to be paid from the first part and from the choicest portion
2. It is a recognition that everything we have has come from God (1Co 4:7)
3. It is based on a percentage because everyone can afford the relative portion

II. The Tithe is Only the Beginning of the Generosity of a Grateful Heart

- A. Love offerings and thank offerings (Deut 12:17)
- B. Generous hospitality (Rom 12:13, 1 Tim 5:10, Heb 13:2)
- C. Willingness to share and to bless others (2 Co 8:1-5)
- D. Open heart, Open home, Open time, Openlife—members of one another (Eph 4:25)

III. Giving with a Pure Heart, Without Agenda, Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ

- A. When we give we must release—it is not ours to control [see next study...]
- B. When we give we must do so with pure motives, expecting nothing in return
 1. no desire to be recognized for our gift (Luke 6:33-36)
 2. no desire to gain influence or control because of our gift (1 Tim 6:5-10)
 3. no secret agenda for affirmation or emotional reward (Matt 6:1-4)
 4. no responsibility for ultimate use...our obligation ends with obedience

Abraham Gives a Tenth

When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people. Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all. The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself." Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich.' "I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share."

(Gen 14:14-24 NASB)

Questions for Study & Discussion

1. Explain the meaning of “tithe” as a principle of giving.
2. Why is the tithe not a part of the Law given to Moses?
3. How does giving the tithe recognize God as the owner and “loaner” of everything?
4. Why is it important to give from the “first fruits”? What does this mean for us?
5. In what way does living in the grace of God, not under the law, apply to how we give?
6. Discuss what it means to give with a “pure” heart?
7. What are the dangers of expecting recognition, appreciation, or influence because of your gifts?



The C&MA Vision

The Christian and Missionary Alliance will be a movement of Great Commission Christians who are glorifying God by building Christ’s Church worldwide.



The C&MA Mission

Our mission is to know Jesus Christ; exalt Him as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King; and complete His Great Commission.

- ❖ Evangelizing and discipling persons throughout the United States, and
- ❖ Incorporating them into Christ-centered, community-focused congregations,
- ❖ Mobilizing them for active involvement in a missionary effort designed to plant Great Commission churches among unreached and responsive peoples worldwide.

NOTES

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