

Speaking Truth In Love

Tithing or the giving of a tenth dates back to the time when Abram (later Abraham) gave a tenth of the spoils of battle to Melchizedek (Gen 14). Under the Law of Moses, each man was to give a tenth of his crops and a tenth of his flocks (Lev 27; Deut 14). Also, a tenth was to be paid to the Levites (priests, Num 18:21-32). The laws through Moses to the Israelites that regulated giving were very demanding (Lev 27; Deut 14).

However, in reading the New Testament one finds no teaching regarding tithing. Instead of tithing, a Christian is commanded to give in the following ways (1 Cor 16:1-2):

- Regularly, “on the first day of the week”
- Individually, “let each one of you lay something aside”
- Proportionately, “as he may prosper”
- Preventatively, “that there be no collections when I come” (suggesting a common treasury)
- Liberally and cheerfully, “he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-7)
- Purposefully, “so let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity” (2 Cor 9:7)
- Sacrificially, “the churches of Macedonia...were freely willing...beyond their ability” to take up a collection for the saints (2 Cor 8:1-5)

The subject of tithing pertained to the Law of Moses. That system or law has been “blotted out” and “nailed to the cross” (Col 2:14). The New Testament, Jesus’ law and covenant, does not stipulate the amount to be given, but provides principles to guide the Christian in his giving.

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.