

THE CROSS *and* CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

October 20, 2013 • David Platt
“THE CROSS AND CHRISTIAN GIVING”
 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

The Cross Compels Us To...

- Give _____.
- Give _____.
- Giving reflects _____ to the church.
- Giving promotes _____ in the church (both locally and globally).
- Give _____.
- Give _____.
- Give _____.

What About Tithing?

- In the Old Testament...
 - _____ (totaling about 23% per year) were given to support the people of God. (Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21-24; Deut. 14:22-23, 28-29)
 - _____ offerings were given to present the best before God. (Ex. 23:16; 34:22; Lev. 19:23-25; Num. 15:20-21)
 - _____ offerings were given to offer excess to God. (Ex. 35:29; 36:3-7; Deut. 12:5-7)
 - Tithes and offerings were...
 - _____ of God's ownership of all things.
 - Reflections of God's _____ for all His people.
 - Reasons to _____ God's blessing on His people.
- In the New Testament...
 - There is no specific _____ to tithe...
 - Yet there are many examples of giving that go _____ the tithe. (Lk. 12:32-34; 18:18-19:10; Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37)
 - And there are many reasons why giving might _____ with a tithe.
 - Tithing honors a biblical _____ that the Old Testament explains and Jesus endorses. (Luke 11:41-42)
 - Tithing reinforces the reality of God's _____. (1 Cor. 4:7; 2 Cor. 9:9-10)
 - Tithing reminds us of the responsibility of our _____. (Mt. 25:14-46)
 - Tithing helps us in our constant battle with _____. (1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19)
 - Tithing aids us in our efforts to combat greed in our _____. (Mt. 6:19-24)
- In the church today...
 - Potentially _____ your giving with 10% to the church (this is the “floor” of giving).
 - Continually _____ your giving with greater percentages according to your excess (there is no “ceiling” on giving).

How Do We Help Those In Need Without Hurting Those In Need?

- Helping the needy is the _____ overflow of faith in Christ and love in the church. (Jms. 2:14-26; 1 Jn. 3:17)
 - Give _____: Prioritize the church and evangelize the lost.
 - Give _____: Supplement the responsible instead of subsidizing the irresponsible.
 - Give _____: Let personal attention, consistent accountability, and long-term commitment accompany your giving.
 - Acknowledge _____: People are in need for different reasons, so help those in need in different ways.
 - Avoid _____...
 - “I’m not doing anything to _____ the poor.”
 - “But I’m just _____ person; what can I do?”
 - “I’m only responsible for helping people _____ to me.”
- “We will give cheerfully and generously to the support of the _____,
 the relief of the _____, and the spread of
 the _____ through all nations.”**

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The Cross Compels Us To...

- Give universally.
- Give corporately.
 - Giving reflects commitment to the church.
 - Giving promotes unity in the church (both locally and globally).
- Give regularly.
- Give proportionately.
- Give responsibly.

What About Tithing?

- In the Old Testament...
 - Tithes (totaling about 23% per year) were given to support the people of God. (Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21-24; Deut. 14:22-23, 28-29)
 - Firstfruit offerings were given to present the best before God. (Ex. 23:16; 34:22; Lev. 19:23-25; Num. 15:20-21)
 - Freewill offerings were given to offer excess to God. (Ex. 35:29; 36:3-7; Deut. 12:5-7)
 - Tithes and offerings were...
 - Reminders of God's ownership of all things.
 - Reflections of God's provision for all His people.
 - Reasons to celebrate God's blessing on His people.
- In the New Testament...
 - There is no specific command to tithe...
 - Yet there are many examples of giving that go beyond the tithe. (Lk. 12:32-34; 18:18-19:10; Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37)
 - And there are many reasons why giving might begin with a tithe.
 - Tithing honors a biblical principle that the Old Testament explains and Jesus endorses. (Luke 11:41-42)
 - Tithing reinforces the reality of God's ownership. (1 Cor. 4:7; 2 Cor. 9:9-10)
 - Tithing reminds us of the responsibility of our stewardship. (Mt. 25:14-46)
 - Tithing helps us in our constant battle with materialism. (1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19)
 - Tithing aids us in our efforts to combat greed in our hearts. (Mt. 6:19-24)
- In the church today...
 - Potentially start your giving with 10% to the church (this is the "floor" of giving).
 - Continually expand your giving with greater percentages according to your excess (there is no "ceiling" on giving).

How Do We Help Those In Need Without Hurting Those In Need?

- Helping the needy is the inevitable overflow of faith in Christ and love in the church. (Jms. 2:14-26; 1 Jn. 3:17)
- Give intentionally: Prioritize the church and evangelize the lost.
- Give wisely: Supplement the responsible instead of subsidizing the irresponsible.
- Give relationally: Let personal attention, consistent accountability, and long-term commitment accompany your giving.
- Acknowledge diversity: People are in need for different reasons, so help those in need in different ways.
- Avoid excuses...
 - “I’m not doing anything to hurt the poor.”
 - “But I’m just one person; what can I do?”
 - “I’m only responsible for helping people close to me.”

**“We will give cheerfully and generously to the support of the church,
the relief of the poor, and the spread of
the gospel through all nations.”**