

AMBASSADORS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Hallmarks of a Church Member: Giving

July 13, 2025

A. Old Testament believer's giving.

1. There were three Old Testament tithes (Num 18, Lev 27; Deut 12; Deut 14)
 - a. an annual income tax of about 25%
 - b. to support the government of Israel
2. freewill offerings in addition (Ex 25; Deut 16:10)
 - a. closest equivalent to New Testament giving.

B. New Testament believer and his giving.

1. Not commanded to tithe anywhere in the NT
2. commanded to pay our taxes (Romans 13:1-7)
3. still responsible to give offerings to the Lord from our heart (**1Cor 16:1-4**)
 - a. our Lord commands every Christian to give (vs 1)
 - b. our giving is to be consistent and systematic (vs 2a)
 - c. our giving should primarily flow through the church (vs 1)
 - d. our giving is to reflect our financial ability and a free decision (vs 2b; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
 - e. we should direct our giving to accomplish God's established priorities
 - (1) supporting the evangelistic work of missionaries (Philippians 4:10-19; 3John 7)
 - (2) supporting the ministry of the local church (1Tim 5:17; Gal 6:6)
 - (3) helping those in need (2Cor 9, 1Tim 6:17f, 1Jon 3:16, James 1:27)

C. The hypocrite's approach to biblical giving (Matthew 6:1-2)

1. the wrong way to give (vs 1-2a)
 - a. they advertised their giving in the synagogue and streets
2. the wrong reason to give (vs 2b)
 - a. they wanted to be noticed by men
3. the wrong reward to seek (vs 2c)
 - a. they wanted to be noticed and honored by men and that is all they got – nothing from God

D. The disciple's approach to biblical giving (Matthew 6:3-4)

1. the right way to give (vs 3)
 - a. normally both hands know what the other is doing
 - (1) Jesus is telling us to keep our giving secret from ourselves
 - b. forbids us from giving to be exalted in our own eyes
 - (1) Christian giving is to be marked by self-sacrifice and self-forgetfulness, not by self-congratulation
2. the right motive for giving (vs 4a)
 - a. so that only God sees you
 - b. what you want most of all is His approval and His glory
 - (1) it draws attention to God as the only true provider of all things
 - (2) it makes it clear to others that God is the One truly providing for that person in need. He just happens to be doing it through us.
 - (3) God ends up being the hero rather than you or me
 - c. Christian giving is ultimately an act of personal worship – we give to God
 - d. Philippians 4:18
3. the Lord's response to biblical giving (vs 4b)
 - a. Jesus says the Father will reward you (Heb 4:13)
 - (1) spiritual blessings now – harvest of righteousness (2Cor 9:10)
 - (2) future reward at the judgment - a greater capacity for service in eternity (parable - Matt 25:19-21)

E. How are you doing with the stewardship of your resources?

1. Are you avoiding the deadly danger of hypocrisy?
2. Are you giving for God's glory and God's approval?