

✝ Tithing: Before or After Taxes?

✝ While this may seem legalistic, it is a valid question asked by many faithful stewards. So what is the answer? Here are some guidelines for you to answer this question for yourself before God:

- ✝ 1. **Everything** is God's, including each other and all our lives.
- ✝ 2. The Old Testament standard seems to indicate the 10% "before taxes" since it is called the "first fruits."
- ✝ 3. Jesus Christ fulfilled (but did not abolish) the law, so we can give **freely, joyfully**, not legalistically.
- ✝ 4. We should give from our heart, **cheerfully**, nothing more and nothing less than we prayerfully, faithfully, and gratefully can give.
- ✝ 5. There are many things that we will regret at the judgment seat, but the sacrifices we make for **the love of God and neighbor** will not be among those. **Would** that we could have given more, to obtain a "better resurrection" (Heb. 9:35).
- ✝ 6. **God** can't be out-given!
- ✝ 7. **Ss. Joachim and Anna** (parents of the Virgin Mary) gave 1/3 to the temple, 1/3 to the needy, and lived on the remaining 1/3 of their income.

✝ **So:** Consider tithing before taxes as long as you can do so with a full heart.

✝ P.S. - If you are married, your giving to the church, like all financial matters, should be discussed with your spouse and agreed upon. Financial discussions can be tricky and frustrating, but unifying if approached with love, respect, and humility.

✝ **God loves a cheerful giver!** (2 Corinthians 9:7)



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