

Tithing

In so-called polite society, especially at Thanksgiving dinners, politics and religion are generally avoided as conversation topics. Too often, in the 'polite pulpits' of our day, subjects like tithing are rarely addressed directly.

1. What is tithing?
 - a. An act of faith – it is the 'first-fruits'
 - b. A demonstration of gratitude
 - c. A gracious law - Genesis 41:34
2. Why did God require tithing?
 - a. That we may learn to fear the Lord - *always*
 - b. That we might feast and rejoice before the LORD – *together*
 - c. That we might be blessed – *in everything*
3. Should Christians tithe today?
 - a. The NT is not explicit
 - b. The reasons for tithing still exist today!
 - i. We need to fear the Lord
 - ii. We need to celebrate our salvation
 - iii. "Levites" still need support – 1 Cor. 9:14
 - c. The NT does teach about giving
 - i. Give first – 1 Cor. 16:2
 - ii. Give proportionally – "as you prosper" – 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:3
 - iii. Give cheerfully – 2 Cor. 9:7
 - iv. Give sacrificially – 2 Cor. 8:3

Application:

1. Are we "cheerful givers" – giving with faith and gratitude?
2. Does our giving demonstrate and reinforce a healthy relationship with the Lord?
3. In what ways are we contributing to the celebration of God's grace here at CPC?
4. Do you love God because he first loved us? 1 John 4:19