

Tithing and Generosity

A Position Paper for Trinity Church

Introduction

Trinity Church is committed to cultivating a culture of joyful, Spirit-led generosity rooted in the whole counsel of God's Word. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture presents giving not as a financial transaction, but as a spiritual act of worship and a declaration of trust in God's provision.

While the New Testament does not command tithing as a legal requirement, it clearly calls believers to sacrificial and generous living. Giving through the local church remains one of the most tangible ways followers of Jesus participate in God's mission and grow in faith.

Trinity Church affirms tithing ten percent of one's income as a biblical and healthy starting point for a life of generosity. We call our members to give faithfully, joyfully, and with increasing openness to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Foundation and Practice

Tithing Before the Law

Long before the Mosaic Law, voluntary acts of tithing expressed honor and worship toward God.

Genesis 14:20 – Abram gave a tenth of his spoils to Melchizedek, recognizing spiritual authority and God's provision.

Genesis 28:22 – Jacob vowed to give a tenth in response to God's faithfulness.

These early examples reveal that the tithe flowed from gratitude rather than obligation. It was a response of the heart to the goodness of God, a principle that still carries weight today.

Tithing Under the Old Covenant

The Mosaic Law codified tithing for Israel with three primary purposes:

1. Worship and Dependence on God

“Tithe so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always” (Deuteronomy 14:23).

2. Provision for the Disadvantaged

Supporting the widow, orphan, and sojourner (Deuteronomy 14:29).

3. Sustaining Ministry

Providing for the Levites who had no land inheritance (Numbers 18:21–24).

While Malachi addresses Israel under the Mosaic Covenant (Malachi 3:8–10), the passage reveals God's unchanging concern for honor, trust, and stewardship—principles that continue under grace, even if the covenantal mechanism differs.

Tithing in the New Testament

The New Testament mentions tithing infrequently. However, in Matthew 23:23, Jesus affirms the practice while rebuking the Pharisees for neglecting “the weightier matters of the law—justice, mercy, and

faithfulness.” His correction was not to abandon tithing but to ensure it flowed from a transformed heart.

Jesus continually raised the standard from external obedience to inward surrender (Matthew 5). His call was not simply to give, but to give with joy, sacrifice, and generosity.

The Call to Generosity in the New Covenant

Jesus modeled and taught radical generosity:

- “If you have two tunics, give to the one who has none” (Luke 3:11).
- “Sell what you possess and give to the poor” (Matthew 19:21).
- “Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33).

Jesus is not prescribing universal destitution, but demanding unrivaled allegiance—where nothing, including money, competes with lordship.

The apostle Paul expands this vision in 2 Corinthians 8-9:

- He commends the Macedonians, who gave beyond their ability.
- He roots generosity in the gospel: “Though He was rich, for your sake He became poor...”
- He assures believers that God provides sufficiency and an abundance for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8).

New Testament giving is not transactional. It is transformational. It reflects the generosity we have received in Christ.

Major Points of Emphasis

- Tithing is a biblical pattern, not a legal requirement under the New Covenant.
- Grace gives more, not less. While tithing can serve as a baseline, the New Testament calls us to Spirit-led generosity that, when possible, exceeds ten percent.
- Giving is worship. It is an act of honoring God, supporting the work of ministry, and caring for those in need.
- Giving is a heart issue. The New Testament emphasizes cheerful, willing giving (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Spiritual Oversight and Teaching at Trinity Church

At Trinity Church, we teach and encourage tithing as a starting point for generosity. We affirm that all financial giving should be:

- Intentional – Planned and prayerfully considered.
- Proportional – Reflecting God’s provision and blessing.
- Sacrificial – Reflecting the heart of the gospel.
- Joyful – A willing expression of love and trust.

Our financial stewardship is overseen by the Eldership with prayerful accountability, financial integrity, and ethical stewardship.

Scriptural References

Genesis 14:20

Genesis 28:22

Deuteronomy 14:23, 29

Numbers 18:21–24

Malachi 3:8–10

Matthew 23:23

Luke 3:11; 14:33

Matthew 19:21

2 Corinthians 8:1–9; 9:6–8

Conclusion

In Scripture, tithing is never about checking a box; it is about honoring God with our first and best. While we are no longer under the law, we are under grace, and grace calls us higher. Generosity is the natural overflow of a heart captured by the gospel.

At Trinity Church, we believe financial giving is both a spiritual discipline and a joyful act of worship. It is one way we express faith, fuel the mission, and reflect the generosity of our Savior. As we give, we declare our trust in God and our desire to see His kingdom come.