A Question Book
or
Christian Stewardship
A QUESTION BOOK
ON
Christian Stewardship

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PART ONE

STEWARDSHIP

Meaning
1. What is a Christian steward?
A Christian steward is a person who acknowledges God as the owner of everything he has and who administers his life and all his possessions in the interests of the Kingdom of God.

2. What does this imply on God's part?
It implies that we recognize God as the absolute sovereign of our life and of the world.

3. What does it imply on man's part?
It implies that the Christian is God's trustee to administer for Him everything entrusted to his care.

Authority

4. Where do we learn the Gospel of Stewardship?
From the Word of God.

5. Did Christ have anything to say about the Stewardship of property?
Christ has more to say on this than on any other one topic. One verse in every seven in the four Gospels, and 1/5 of the 38 parables refer to this theme.

Acknowledgement
6. What is the first thing a Christian steward should acknowledge?
That himself and all that he has belongs to God.

7. What is the second thing he should acknowledge?
That he must give an account of all that is entrusted to him.

8. What do these acknowledgments require?
For one thing they require the setting apart for the extension of Christ's Kingdom a portion to be at least the tenth of one's income.

PART TWO

THE TITHE

1. What is the tithe?
The tithe is one-tenth of our increase.

2. Are stewardship and tithing the same?
No. Stewardship is broader than tithing; tithing is a distinct part of stewardship.

3. If all belongs to God, why ask for a tithe?
For the same reason that God asks for one seventh of time when all time belongs to God. It is merely an acknowledgement that all is His.
12. Does the paying of one-tenth to God imply that the other nine-tenths belong to me?
No. We are stewards of the nine-tenths. The money spent for the ice cream, milk, and tobacco as well as the money put into the collection basket.
13. How then does the tithe fit into the stewardship of property?
Just as the Sabbath fits into the stewardship of time.
14. Is there a difference between tithing and systematic giving?
Yes. A person may systematically pay one-fiftieth of his income, but he would still be far from being a tither.

Old Testament Authority
15. Was tithing a law in the Old Testament?
Yes. It stands prominently in the front.
16. Was the tithe confined to the Mosaic dispensation?
No. It was commonly practiced before Moses was born.
17. Why are we commanded to pay tithes before Moses?
Abraham and Jacob.
18. Can you prove from the Bible that tithes paying was required before Moses?
No. Just as we can not prove that Sabbath keeping and prayer were required, but certainly these were parts of the divine religion.

New Testament Obligation
19. Was the tithe a part of the Levitical Law?
Yes. It was incorporated in the Levitical order the same as was the Sabbath, prayer, and other permanent parts of the true religion.
20. But, the obligation of the tithe come with the Levitical dispensation?
No. Only shadows and types passed away. The tithe was not a shadow nor a type of anything and hence remains.
21. What would be necessary to abrogate an Old Testament law?
Either it must be so stated in the Word of God, or it must have received its fulfillment in the coming of Jesus Christ.
22. Is there anything to show that the tithe has been abrogated in either of these ways?
No.
23. Is the tithe principle confirmed in the New Testament?
Yes.
24. Does Christ give it His sanction?
Yes. When He said to the Pharisees, "These ought ye to have done." Matt. 23:38.
What argument for the tithe is given in the seventh chapter of Hebrews?

This chapter tells how Abraham paid tithes, not to Aaron who represented the Levitical priesthood, but to Melchizedek who was a type of Jesus Christ. This links the tithe to the things which are permanent.

Is there any argument for the tithe in I Cor. 9:13, 14?

Yes. It shows that ministers of the Gospel are to receive their support in the same way that the priests of the temple receive theirs—that is from the people's tithe.

What is the seventh commandment with the tithe method of contributing to Christ's work?

Yes, it is every member, giving every Sabbath, on a proportionate basis. This aptly describes what the tithe system is.

Why thin you not the tithe included in the Ye Commandments?

It was. The eighth commandment says "Thou shalt not steal." God said of those who withheld their tithes and offerings, "Ye have robbed me."

Calculation

What is the tithe to be tithed?

It is the total income minus the cash cost of producing it.

Are there different ways of figuring the tithe?

Yes. Some may figure so as to have the Lord in debt to them at the end of the year.

What would be a business man's tithe?

It would be one-tenth of all the gains of his business.

What is a wage earner's tithe?

It is one-tenth of all he earns minus the actual expenses connected with his work such as car fare, etc.

What is a physician's tithe?

It is one-tenth of his entire income less professional expenses such as office rent, medicines, transportation, etc.

What is a minister's tithe?

It is the tenth of all the money he receives less the actual expenses connected with his ministerial duties such as traveling expenses.

Should the minister take the money with which he buys his automobiles?

We think so, because it probably contributes as much to his own comfort and convenience as it does to the needs of his congregation.

What is a farmer's tithe?

It is all the money he receives for his products plus the cash value of all his family consumer goods. It may be deducted the actual costs of production such as hired help, farm implements, etc.

Should my farm be incorporated, should I take the interest?

No, this is included in the cost of production.
Yes, because that represents clear gain. Putting it in land is the same as though you were putting it in the bank.

No, because this is what it costs you to become a producer.

Your capital is that with which you produce income. Taxes enter in as cost of production. Your home with its furnishings is for your comfort and the comfort of your family. You pay taxes on it for protection and convenience in living and these should be paid out of the nine-tenths.

Yes. This ministers to your own comfort.

Yes. If you tithed the rent while renting it why not tithe the equivalent of the rent while owning it? If you tore the money you put in your home and rented another you would tithe both the rent you pay out and the interest you take in.

Yes. The free manse is the equivalent of so much added salary.

Certainly! If you do not you are in no sense a tither.

Yes. If we tithe that for which we work, how much more should we be willing to tithe that which costs us nothing.

Yes. It is from God whether you raise it or buy it. The farmer should tithe his whole living the same as the man on salary. The fact that he raises it makes no difference.

Yes. The tithing is the most sacred of all debts. Shall we defraud God to pay man?

The Jews were farmers and they figured it. God we figure it if it were coming to us? If a farmer can figure his needs for the income tax collector, can be not figure them for God?

Will this not veritably the farmer keeping accounts? It will.
Yes. The plan on the opposite page was secured from a tithing farmer:

No account is to be taken of it until a sale is made. Then tithe the difference between the selling price and the price originally paid.

Yes. The nine-tenths with God's blessing will go further than ten-tenths without.

“Prove me now heareth saith the Lord.”

Distribution

Pay it into the treasury of the Church.

Every Sabbath if possible. It is part of our worship.

For the extension of the Kingdom of God.
50—Should I use my tithe to relieve the poor and sufferings?

No. This is humanitarian work which may contribute nothing toward the building up of Christ's Kingdom. We ought to give to these causes but not out of the Lord's tithe.

51—Should the tithe be used for the support of dependable relatives?

No. No more than for the support of ourselves.

52—Should it be used for the building or repair of a church?

The Tabernacle and the Temple were not erected out of the tithe. We could hardly depend on the tithe to build our churches.

53—What warranty should be held in expanding the peoples' faith for future needs?

Beware of selfishness in the administration of the Lord's money!

54—May I contribute all my tithe through the channels of my own church?

This is the natural course to follow. The Church can use it all in the Kingdom's work. A person, however, cannot be prohibited from contributing part of the tithe through another channel if he chooses.

55—Can I designate where my tithe shall go?

You can, but you are urged to contribute to the Budget instead.

56—What is the Budget?

The Budget is the sum total of all the amounts appropriated by Synod to the various departments of the Church.

57—What is the advantage of contributing to the Budget?

Every contribution goes toward nourishing the body of Christ instead of some one particular member.

58—What factors should enter into the budget computational system of finance?

All the members tithe stewards; all contributing to the common budget, on the weekly basis, using the envelope; an accurate record kept by the treasurer; the publication of a quarterly report; and the conducting of the Every Member Canvass.

PART THREE

THE EVERY MEMBER CANVASS

61—What is the Every Member Canvass?

The Every Member Canvass is a personal solicitation of every member of the congregation to pledge his tithe to God's work and to specify the minimum amount he will give toward the congregational budget for the coming year.

62—What is its aim?

The aim is to persuade every member young and old to become a Christian steward and assume his proportionate responsibility in supporting Christ's cause.
60—What are the advantages?
It brings every member face to face with his or her personal duty and gives an opportunity for imparting information and clearing away any difficulties that may exist in the mind of the individual.

70—Who should conduct it?
The financial officers should arrange for the canvass. They may conduct it themselves or call in from the membership such assistance as may make it most effective.

71—How should the canvassers go?
Two by two, in the spirit of prayer. All controversy should be avoided.

72—What should be their aim?
To bring the members face to face with Jesus Christ and duty and leave them with a keen interest in Christ's work.

73—How often should the Regular Member canvass be conducted?
Once each year, to take place at the close of the financial campaign.

74—What record should be kept of the results?
A record should be kept of all who pledged the tithe; of the names and amounts of those who gave pledges for definite amounts and of the difficulties the canvassers met with by the way.

PART FOUR
THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION

75—Is the principal aim of the Financial Movement to raise money?
No, the principal aim is to raise men.

76—What is the relationship of Stewardship to the spiritual life?
The relation is vital. You cannot raise a thorough Christian without raising a Christian steward.

77—Why did God institute the tithe in all ages?
It was not because He needed the money but because He needed the principle. The tithe like the Sabbath was made for man.

78—Is it possible to lay too great stress on the tithe payment?
Yes, like the Pharisees who paid tithes but omitted judgment, mercy and faith.

79—Does a Christian's responsibility end with the payment of the tithe?
By no means. He is to give as the Lord hath prospered him. Maybe it will mean two-tenths or five-tenths or ten-tenths. Freewill offerings have a large place in the stewardship program. Stewardship means that we will administer the nine-tenths as well as the one for the glory of God.
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The principles of stewardship are designed to meet this very need. The payment of the first fruits to God is an acknowledge-
ment that God and not Mammon is supreme in our life.

S5—Why then should I be a Christian Steward?
Because I owe it to myself—it is vital to my Christian life.
Because I owe it to Jesus Christ—He gave His all for me.
Because I owe it to the Kingdom of God—it needs my material support.

If I Am Not a Christian Steward, What Am I?