

Belvedere Family Church: Guidance about Tithing

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Hello Brothers and Sisters!

I received some questions about tithing since this past Sunday's sermon about what tithing actually is. With many avenues to give in our movement, it may get a little confusing so to help clarify I wanted to share this with you.

When we talk about tithing we are talking about the offering of 10% of your net income (after taxes) to the local community.

Any additional donations to Subregional, National, International level initiatives, and providential initiatives (UPF, CARP, WFWPU, ACLC, Kodan, etc.) are to be made in addition to the local tithe.

Attached is an excerpt from the official FFWPU book of traditions that includes some great quotes and definitions on tithing according to True Parent's words.

From the Traditions book:

Financial Tithe

Whether we receive a salary, a stipend, or a gift of money from parents, home church contacts, etc., we should donate at least one-tenth of the net amount to our local church as a minimum contribution, but may voluntarily contribute more.

If you'd like to read the entire traditions book you can find it here:

<http://www.tparents.org/Library/Unification/Books/BlessFamTrad-190321.pdf>

[Traditions of a Blessed Life - Tithing](#)

TITHING

Tithing is a biblical tradition referring to the practice of donating one tenth of one's income to God through the church or synagogue. The Family Federation for World Peace tradition of tithing also includes offering an attitude of attendance to God.

In the ideal sense, in order to fulfill God's providential Will, everything (including our own families) must be viewed as an offering or sacrifice. However, in reality, it is not possible to offer everything. So our minimal attitude of attendance should be to offer at least one-tenth of all our things to God first. Through this conditional offering, the remaining nine-tenths of our possessions become holy. By doing so, our life, family, and our remaining possessions are brought to God. A hundred percent of everything we own belongs to God. Therefore, it can be said that tithing is a great benefit for us.

"The Way of God's Will" contains some of True Parents' thoughts on tithing:

“*Tithing is a basic duty of the chosen children. When you offer the portion of the number one, that is, the number of God, you set up the condition of having offered the portion of the number nine. Therefore, you must think more of this one-tenth than of the remainder.*”

“*Sunday is the day of tithing, not your own day. Thus, it is the day when you obey God as He commands. It is a sin to use that which belongs to God as if it were your own.*”

Furthermore, True Father proposed Three Tenth Tithing which is that each tenth tithing is for the local church, country and for the world. He spoke of it in “Cheon Il Guk is the Ideal Heavenly Kingdom of Eternal Peace” (Declaration Statement of Cheon Il Guk) on June 13th, 2006.

“*All citizens of Cheon Il Guk will provide funds for the well-being and peace of humanity, not by taxation but by voluntary contributions. They will demonstrate the model of offering the first three tenths of their income for the public purpose. This cannot be an imposed tax; it has to be a gift that citizens offer willingly to Heaven with joyful hearts.*”

Hierarchy of Tithing

Ultimately, one-tenth of the total tithes a local church receives from its members should be offered to the state or regional church. The state or regional church should also tithe one-tenth of the total of all tithes it collects to the national headquarters. In addition, all national headquarters should tithe one-tenth of the total tithes they receive to the international headquarters.

Types of Tithing

Time Tithe

According to True Father's teaching, although a monetary tithe is important, to tithe our time is essential as we strive to share our lives with God. The time that we offer for the sake of public through our church can be considered as a "time tithe."

Financial Tithe

Whether we receive a salary, a stipend, or a gift of money from parents, home church contacts, etc., we should donate at least one-tenth of the net amount to our local church as a minimum contribution, but may voluntarily contribute more.

Gratitude-Special Donations

All church members and all Blessed families are encouraged to offer special donations on each major Holy Day. By having such an attitude and lifestyle, one can deepen his or her relationship of heart with Heavenly Parent and True Parents. In this way, it is important to understand that whether or not one attends the main Holy Day celebration with True Parents (or their representatives), it is still desirable to give a donation. Therefore, as an unconditional offering, it does not constitute or guarantee "admission" to a Holy Day celebration.

We freely offer donations out of gratitude for receiving grace on many occasions such as the birth of a child, entry to a school, a graduation, finding employment, recovery from illness, the Marriage Blessing, and a Seonghwa.

The amount of money given is an individual decision. However, it is recommended that amounts of providentially significant numbers be offered. The most important element is the heart with which the offering is given.