

Church: Provides Equipping / Training

Members: Tithe

October 6 – Wayne Wallace

1. _____ Church Leaders to pastor, teach, Equip and Train God’s People

Ephesians 4:11-16 NIV

It was [Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

a. Christ gave the Church _____

Christ designated there be Church Leaders. He Himself chose whom they would be and gave them specific Spiritual Gifts to do the job He has assigned them.

b. Christ gave the Church Leaders _____

Verse 13 “...To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature....”

Church Leaders have a task to do – Equip and Train God’s People so they grow up to become as near possible replicas of Jesus.

c. _____ only happens as “Each part does its work.”

In the context of this class today, “each part doing its work” *includes* Members supporting the Church and its Leaders *materially* and *financially*.

2. God expects Church Members to Provide for _____

1 Corinthians 9:4-14 NIV

Don't we have the right to food and drink?⁵ Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?⁶ Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk?⁸ Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn't the Law say the same thing?⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned?¹⁰ Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.¹¹ If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?¹² If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.¹³ Don't you know that those who work in the temple get

their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?
¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

a. God has _____ that Church Leaders should Receive their Living from those they lead.

Paul's arguments:

1. v. 4 – Leaders have the Right to Food and Drink
2. v. 7 – Soldiers don't serve at their own expense and Farmers eat from their crops and herds
3. v. 9 – he quotes an Old Testament scripture Deuteronomy 26:12 as further argument

Deuteronomy 26:12 NIV

When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.

- a Tenth / Tithe of what your labor produces
- is to be given to the Levite (Temple workers, i.e., Church Leaders), the alien, fatherless and the widow.
- So that they may eat

Today we tend to give our Tithe to the Church and let the Leaders help the poor and destitute.

4. v. 10 – Deuteronomy 26:12 is *not* just about being kind to animals, but is for us (Church Leaders)
5. v. 11 – Church Leaders sow Spiritually (Teach and Equip) and are to Receive from the Membership a Material Harvest (Salary to meet their needs)
6. v. 13 – those who worked in the Temple got their food from the Temple tithes / sacrifices

b. If we do not Tithe, we are _____ (and Church Leaders)

Malachi 3:8-10 NIV

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me.

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

If Members do not Tithe, they are not only robbing God, but robbing Church Leaders of their due support for Equipping and Training.

3. Does the New Testament teach Tithing or is it just an Old Testament command?

a. Jesus DID _____

Matthew 23:23 NIV

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

b. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for Neglecting the Most Important things God expects of His People

- Justice – caring for the poor and needy, honest dealings in business
- Mercy – forgiving others their wrongs against us, no retaliation for injuries
- Faithfulness – continually following God’s ways, repenting when we fail and returning to our previous obedience

c. Jesus expects us to work on the _____ (Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness) _____

Matthew 23:23 – “You should have practiced the *latter* [Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness], without neglecting the *former* [Tithing].