

CHAPTER 21

Christians Must Give According to the Law of Love

This is not a book against giving. It is a book against religious bondage and preachers raising funds through manipulation, extortion, and bribery. It is an effort to free Christians from the grievous error of tithing so they can hear directly from the Holy Spirit and vigorously participate in the liberating truth of giving.

As stated in this chapter's title, I believe Christians *must* give. That is, I believe Christians are obligated by love to give. "You sound like the legalists," you say. "I thought you were on our side!" Actually I'm on God's side (or so I think). And trust me, my concept of our obligation to give is nothing like the legalists' concept of tithing. You should know this by now.

The Other Side of the Giving Debate

On one hand, the legalists demand systematic payment of ten percent of our income to their bank accounts as a command of God. On the other hand, we non-tithers demand unconditional liberty from any legalistic demands on our money.

We've spent over two hundred pages destroying the illegitimacy of the legalist position. This was the right thing to do. It deserves one thousand pages of destruction. But we would be irresponsible and