

Questions Posed for Study

Question: Is it right claiming tithes & offerings as tax deductions, & getting money back!

The Bible on taxes, tithes & offerings.

(Matthew 22:17 – 21)

Intro: There are several important points to made here;

1. That governments have _____ rights & therefore the right to tax.
2. That God has _____ rights & ought to be obeyed.
3. Because of the Scriptures, Baptists have always endeavored to be the best citizens and very _____ of their country, unless there is a conflict with the Bible.
 - a. **Romans 13:1 – 6**, God's _____ of genuine Believers.
 - b. **Acts 5:26 – 29**, God's _____ of genuine Believers.
 - c.
4. So, the question may well be, Are taxes Scriptural?
 - a. Can or should a Christian biblically, _____ to pay taxes?
 - b. **Matthew 17:25 – 27**, is about a temple _____ to defray Temple expenses.
 - c. They faced several different taxes as we do today:
 - (1). _____ and _____ taxes.
 - (2). _____ tax or personal tax.
 - (3). _____ and export taxes.
 - (4). _____ tax.

I. Does the Government have the right to tax it citizens.

- A. The short answer is _____!
 1. How else will the government find the resources to _____ roads & maintain a military.
 2. How much gets spent on what will depend on who the people we _____ & their priorities. Elections have consequences!
 3. The government also has the right to offer _____ for child care, dependents, interest on mortgages payments to a few.
 4. When governments choose to offer deductions for charitable contributions, typically (501-C-3), and there are many out there of which churches are one group. **(Ez. 7:24.)** May be the only biblical source on this subject other than wisdom concerning the

local work churches accomplish in helping local family needs, such as food & clothing shelves, help with disconnects (electric & heat) where & when possible. And many churches, unfortunately have relinquished this to federal & local governments.

- a. While this may seem good for the church's budget line, it _____ an evangelistic opportunity as well.
- b. Interacting with the needs of folks is one way of bring God's _____ to them.
- c. **Luke 3:7 – 11 & (10:26 – 37** The Good Samaritan)

B. With this concern some may have about claiming deductions, consider this.

1. One could _____ to not to claim legitimate tithes & offerings and let the government spend the legal deduction on such things as abortion, gender-dysphoria and other things we find deplorable.
2. File your taxes, claim the tithes & offerings, and give them to the _____ to be used in mission programs, community outreach, or to Christian counseling centers that save baby's lives. Or to legal counseling groups like C.L.A. and N.C.L.L
3. Legal deductions _____ be taken when they are offered, so as to get as much back as possible, especially when we see how wasteful government can be with the hard earned money American's make.
4. Allow the Holy Spirit to _____ you as to how to use your refund.

C. When one doesn't tithe and give offerings, or give to charitable organizations, they have no business claiming any amount on their taxes.

1. 'Well the government has a base allowance they will accept as an amount without questioning!'
2. That is not the point, one is taking credit for something they have not done, the point is if you gave nothing, then to claim it as a Christian is to lie, whether the government allows it because they know people cheat on their taxes, and no Christian should cheat on anything.

II. Tithes and offerings are expected by God.

- A. In the Old Testament tithes were commanded – **Lev. 27:30, Malachi 3:8 – 10.**
- B. In the New Testament financial support for the ministry is expected – **I Cor. 16:1 – 3.**
- C. God blesses those who give financially – **Luke 6:38.**