

Directly after the indwelling of the Holy spirit on the day of pentecost, one of the direct results was that the new Christians (thousands of them) all gave to one another--they cared for the needs of those in the church--

“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2: 42-47)

This is repeated again in Acts chapter 4....

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. (Acts 4: 31-35)

Giving to the poor within the church was clearly a very important new covenant command. It was there so that all within the church “had no lack” --which was NOT for the fact that they all could have whatever they wanted--it was because all the people were serving God and lack would prevent them from doing their ministry to the Lord.

Questions: Do we follow after this ideal in our churches today? Or do we rather meet the needs of leadership only and ignore the needs of all the saints? Do we give to a building--or to people? What degree of importance do we place on giving to the poor which are our brethren? In this little tract there is a lot of Bible--how much of this is taught within our churches? Or, do we hear a lot more teaching on the old covenant “tithe”--a doctrine which teaches that all the money is meant to go to the leadership of the church? A doctrine which limits “ministry” only to leadership! The new covenant gives a priesthood to every believer--do we really support the ministry in ALL the church or--only “some”?

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