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Date:

Name:

GOAL: To have a biblical worldview on paying taxes.

There are many types of taxes that we pay throughout our lives.
Sales, Income, Estate, Inheritance, Gift, Property, Social Security, Capital Gains
Ron Blue: "A sign of good stewardship is paying taxes with thanksgiving"

Biblical Viewpoint of Taxes:

1. God is the owner of all things: you don't own your money anyway
2. Four things you can do with money: Live, Give, Owe, Grow
 - a. Taxes fall in the Owe category
3. How I pay my taxes is a reflection of my integrity
4. If you pay a lot in taxes, you most likely have a lot of income
 - a. Paying taxes is a direct result of God's blessings
 - b. You are obeying a direct command from God

Cultural Perspective of Taxes:

1. The government is irresponsible so I should not have to support it
2. Paying taxes is a non-productive use of money
3. Cheating on taxes is normal



1 It is ok to reduce taxes when possible.

The government has created a tax code that allows for strategic planning for tax minimization and timing.

Minimizing taxes is a legitimate goal. Evading taxes is not.

- Integrate tax planning into long term financial picture/plan
- Need to receive expertise and advice from tax experts
- Usually not a good idea to get a large tax refund
- No such thing as a free tax deduction – will cost you something (interest, medical, etc)

Disagreeing with the government is not a legitimate reason not to pay taxes.

2 How to Approach.

Steps to Take:

1. Meet with a tax professional
2. Create a tax reduction plan
3. Become thankful when paying taxes

Tax Saving Strategies:

1. Timing (prepay expenses.)
2. Shifting (shift income to someone in lower bracket)
3. Investing (municipal bonds, IRA's, 401k, tax deferral)
4. Tax law provisions: deductions etc

3 Understand that taxes pay for something of value.

Here are a number of benefits of paying taxes.

- Provides revenue to run the government
- Funds public utilities and amenities (roads, parks etc.)
- Pays for education for children
- Provides healthcare for the elderly (Medicare) or less privileged
- Provides security (911 services)

4 Closing

Once we understand God owns everything and taxes are a reflection of God's provision and blessings, we begin to see paying taxes differently. Then, we plan and reduce taxes based on prudent financial and tax planning to minimize the effect of paying taxes on our personal plans. After we have done all the planning, we then can pay our taxes with thanksgiving knowing that God has blessed us and we are acting in accordance to His Word and commands. Ultimately, we are being faithful stewards and must trust God enough to pay taxes with thanksgiving and integrity. What an opportunity to be a light to the world!



What is the main theme of the tax passages? (see back page)

How do I feel about paying taxes?

Have I been ethical in paying taxes?

Have I been unethical in attempting to avoid taxes?

After completing this tool, take time to pray over the content.

Write a sentence or two about what you feel you have learned or that God is impressing upon your heart.



Bare Wealth Advisors Financial Bible Verses

Taxes

Luke 20:25

"Well then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."

Luke 16:10

If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.

2 Corinthians 4:2

We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.

Romans 13:1-2

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.

Romans 13:6-7

Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

Matthew 22:17-21

Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Why are you trying to trap me? Here, show me the coin used for the tax." When they handed him a Roman coin, he asked "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. "Well, then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."

Matthew 17:24-27

On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, "Doesn't your teacher pay the Temple tax?" "Yes, he does," Peter replied. Then he went into the house. But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, "What do you think Peter? Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?" "They tax the people they have conquered," Peter replied. "Well, then," Jesus said, "the citizens are free! However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us."