



“Two-Sided Coin” “Hand in Hand”

“Is that a legitimate coin?” a lady hurriedly asked. Her companion glanced, smiled, and said, “you look at both sides and decide.” It was a common coin but a brand new version.

When Jesus said *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...”* (Matthew 28:19-20), He called us to share the GOOD NEWS of God’s love with persons everywhere.

To meet that challenge two important commitments must be made. The first is from each believer. We are responsible to God for how we manage His gifts and how we acknowledge Him through giving. The Bible teaches, you must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give ... (2 Corinthians 9:7 NLT). One way to clearly express our love and obedience to God is to faithfully give a tithe or more of our income through the church.

While each believer is important to God, the church is also important. We serve God as individuals and as responsible church members. An Individual’s commitment to give generously through his church must continue with the church’s commitment to give generously beyond itself.

God led Southern Baptists years ago to express their resolve *to make disciples of all nations* by adopting the Cooperative Program, a plan of giving to support ministries throughout the world. The Cooperative Program helps Southern Baptists become a mission team – from the individual and his church to the missionary on the farthest field.

Both individual and church giving is important. They are two sides of the same coin. They go hand in hand. Like a new coin, may your commitment be up-to-date and genuine. Make a fresh commitment to give a tithe or more through your church and encourage your church to give generously through the Cooperative Program.