



## The Principle of First Robert Morris

**Focus** If God is first in your life, then everything else will come into order.

**Fun** If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three items would you choose to have with you?!

**Review**

Key Scriptures: Exodus 13:1–2, 13:12–13, 23:19; Proverbs 3:9–10; Genesis 4:3–5; Leviticus 27:30

**1. The firstborn must be sacrificed or redeemed.**

We were born unclean or in a sin nature. Jesus was the firstborn or firstfruits; He was born clean. Jesus is God's tithe. Romans 5:8 says, "While we were sinners, Christ died for us." God gave Jesus in the hope that we would believe.

**2. The firstfruits must be offered.**

Proverbs 3:9–10 tells us to "honor the Lord with our possessions ... and with the firstfruits of all your increase." Exodus 23:19 instructs us to bring the firstfruits of your land into the house of the Lord your God. "Bring" is the word God uses, not "give." You can't give what doesn't belong to you. In Genesis 4:3–5, Abel's offering was a firstfruits offering, which was acceptable to the Lord. Cain's was simply an offering, not firstfruits, and was not acceptable to the Lord. God could not accept it because it would have been outside His character. God cannot be second. He is always first, whether we admit it or not.

**3. The tithe must be first.**

Leviticus 27:30 tells us that "all the tithe" is holy to the Lord. "Holy" means "set apart" or "belongs to the Lord." The first part of our income to leave our hands should go to the Lord. The firstfruit will bring a blessing on your home. We don't have to be legalistic. God knows your heart and what is first in your life.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Consider attending Growth Path, Gateway's four-week series of classes designed to help you discover your part in God's story and fulfill His call on your life. For more information, visit [growthpath.gatewaypeople.com](http://growthpath.gatewaypeople.com).

### Discuss

1. Can you tell where your heart is by looking at your financial statement?
2. What are some common misconceptions people have about tithing? How did Pastor Robert address those?
3. In Exodus 23:19, God directs us to bring the firstfruits of our land to the house of the Lord. Why does God use the word "bring" instead of "give"?
4. What does your calendar reveal about your time and how you spend it? What does your choice of entertainment reveal about your heart?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- God is not legalistic, but He knows your heart.
- God wants to be first in every area of your life.
- If you will put Him first, He will bless you.

### Prayer

Lord, we want to make You first in our lives. When we hear alarming news or rumors, we want to think of You first and know we are secure in You. Help us to give You the firstfruits of our labor and remember how You saved us from the slavery of sin. We praise You because You are above every name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Pray for repentance, renewal, and peace in the hearts of God's people.