Work Of The Church (VI) Benevolence, The Lord's Way

Importance of authority

Col.3¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

I. Principles To Remember

There is a difference in church action and individual action

Mt.18¹⁵ Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

There is a difference in church action and individual action

1 Co.12¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

There is a difference in church action and individual action

1 Tim.5¹⁶ If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

NT pattern for evangelism is not same as pattern for benevolence

Acts 61 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

NT pattern for evangelism is not same as pattern for benevolence

Ro.1¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

2 Th.3¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

1 Tim.5¹⁶

I. Principles To Remember

II. We Must Not Forget The Issue

Duties of individuals

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Mt.5^{43-48} (sons)
Mt.6^{1-4} (hands)
Mt.25<sup>31-46</sup> (charitable works; eternal rewards)
Lk.10<sup>30-35</sup> (Samaritan; neighbor)
Jn.19<sup>26-27</sup> (son; disciple)
Ac.936-39 (disciple; woman; her tunics...)
Ep.4<sup>28</sup> (him; hands; he)
Ja.1<sup>27</sup> (oneself)
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Duties of church to its own

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Ac.2<sup>44-45</sup> (collective words)
Ac.4<sup>32-34</sup> (apostles' feet)
Ac.6<sup>1-6</sup> (apostles appoint)
1 Tim.5<sup>16</sup> (individual widow – church widow)
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Duties of church to another church(es)

Ac.11²⁷ And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Duties of church to another church(es)

Ro.15²⁵ But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. ²⁶ For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷ It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

Duties of church to another church(es)

1 Co.16¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: ² On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. ³ And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

2 Co.8-9

I. Principles To Remember

II. We Must Not Forget The Issue

III. Brief History Of Orphan's Home Issue