

Arguments for General Church Benevolence

Old issue – 1950s

Current issue – difference in churches; *still argued*

Q: What is GOD'S WILL?

2Co 9:13 “all men”

- **Rom 15:25-31; 1Co 16:1-3; 2Co 8,9**
“saints” seven times!
- ***“liberal contribution”*** — Sincere
fellowship (Gentiles/Jews)
“proof given by this ministry...”

Acts 24:17 offerings to “my nation”

- Same as **Rom 15; 1Co 16; 2Co 8,9** for “saints”
- Synecdoche - “my nation” = Jewish saints (law of harmony)
e.g., **Lk 2:1**, “all inhab. earth” = Roman empire

Gal 6:10 “do good to all men”




- “neighbor” duty **5:13,14**
- Letters to churches NOT authorize collective action as c. “of Christ”
e.g. **Eph 1:1...4:28**
Christians (**Eph 5:19-20**), husb/wives (**Eph 5:22,25**), parents (**Eph 6:4**), masters/servants (**Eph 6:5,9**)
- Note: context of **Gal 6:10** NOT financial benevolence

Jam 1:27 “visit f. & w.”

- “neighbor” duty **Lk 10:29...34**
Context indiv. - “oneself”; **v22f**
- Letters to churches NOT authorize collective action as church “of Christ”
e.g. **1Th 1:1...4:11**
- Context of **Jam 1:27** - individual duties -
“oneself”; **v22f**

“Church” = Individuals

If indiv. authorized ...church authorized

- Everything in ltr to church author.
church provision and oversight? 
- **1Co 11:34**
indiv. eat satis. hunger ... church 
- **Mt 18:15-17**
skip steps #1, #2?
- **1Tim 5:16**
indiv. care for relatives ... church 

Opposed to helping people - no love

- **1Tim 5:16**
church not love widow with children?
- **Cancer society**
not contrib. to heart victims...no love?
- **Collective - church "OF CHRIST" ...**
members not care about government?
animals? roads?

It's all the Lord's money

- Spend my money to go to Disney World...use the church treasury to fund trips to Disney World...??
- **1Tim 5:16** Clearly a difference!
- **Ac 4:32,35; 5:4** Once contributed - “common”; not “yours” or under your control

2Tim 1:13; 1Co 14:37; Mt 28:18...20