

Helping the Needy

What is the Bible Pattern?

What is done with the church's money ought to be the concern of every member. God has instructed clearly what He wills. Nothing is left to our imaginations or assumptions.

1. We find specific instructions regarding paying preachers to preach (1 Cor 9:8-14; 2 Cor. 11:8)

2. Implied is the spending of money to provide what God has commanded.

- For instance, we are to partake of the Lord's Supper on Sunday (Acts 20:7). Providing the unleavened bread and the juice requires making purchases.

- We are to assemble (Heb. 10:25). Assembling necessitates a place. Either we rent, buy or are loaned a place to meet in. A place to assemble often requires money.

3. We find specific commands regarding helping needy Christians. We often call this "benevolence." God has spoken His will on this as well.

- Rom. 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution **for the poor among the saints** in Jerusalem.
- 1 Cor. 16:1 Now concerning the **collection for the saints**, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.
- Acts 11:29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution **for the relief of the brethren** living in Judea.
- 2 Cor. 8:4 begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation **in the support of the saints**.

The pattern we find in the N.T. regarding benevolence is that the church can help other needy Christians. Providing for the needy of the world, disaster relief, funding for unwed mothers, drug rehabs, the homeless are all good deeds that should be done by the individual, but not with the church's money. Why can't the church help anybody who is needy? God has a pattern that is revealed in the NT and that pattern is for the church to help needy saints. There is no example of using the church's money to help anyone other than a Christian. This pattern is just as clear and as important as any other subject. We must respect God's pattern in all things.