

Individual And Collective Responsibility **Acts 2:41-47**

Look at division of Christian obligations and responsibilities:

A definite separation in the individual and church obligations.
Individual has a much greater sphere of activity than does the church.

Individual Obligations:

Sufficient Scriptural authority in fulfilling

Religious - **John 4:24; James 1:21**

Teaching - **2Timothy 2:2; Matthew 28:19–20**

Family - **Ephesians 6:1–4; 1Timothy 5:1–8**

Social - **Luke 10:30–37; Matthew 7:12; Romans 12:14–21**

Benevolence - **James 1:27; Galatians 6:6,10**

Economic - **Ephesians 4:28; 2Thessalonians 3:10–12; 1Timothy 5:8**

Political - **Romans 13:1–7; 2Peter 2:10–13**

Unapproved actions of individuals:

One person cannot oversee the church - **Acts 14:23**

No person is to teach a perverted gospel - **Galatians 1:8–9**

No person is to support something sinful within itself - **2John 9–11; Colossians 3:17**

Church Obligations:

Scriptural authority found to fulfill - **Acts 2:41–47**

Uphold the Gospel - **1Timothy 3:14–15**

Preach, Teach - **1Thessalonians 1:8; 2Corinthians 11:8**

Edification - (to build up). - **Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11–12**

Supporting elders - **1Timothy 5:17–18**

Supporting preachers in field, church sent directly to preacher, not some other congregation to send to him, nor even to church for which he was then preaching. - **Philippians 4:15–16**

Benevolence

Church sent help to needy congregations

Poor saints were helped by the church - **Acts 4:32–37; 6:1–6; 11:27–30**

Every example of church sending to another contains these facts:

Receiving church was in want; need was physical; duration was temporary - **2Corinthians 8:13–15**

In every case given in NT, receivers of benevolent help from a congregation were saints, members of the church. - **Romans 15:25–27; 1Corinthians 16:1–2; 2Corinthians 8:4,14; 2Corinthians 9:1,12; 1Timothy 5:16**

Absence of other instruction (statement, command, approved example, or necessary inference) tells us the receivers of benevolence from the church were all believers or members.

Unapproved Actions Of The Church:

Support of human organizations from treasury

Colleges, Hospitals, Home for Orphans, Widows, Unwed Mothers, Publishing Company

Many congregations sending to one congregation through which to preach the gospel, by TV, Radio, or supporting preachers in field.

Such congregational activities have no scriptural authorization.

Individual Sphere Of Responsibility Is Much Greater Than The Collective Sphere

The church is sufficient to do what God wants it to do

Instead of moving into areas where we have no authority, let the church do its work, individual do his work and all will grow in God's way.

"It's a good work" is not sufficient to override authority of Scripture

More in future lessons