Role of the Individual & Of the Collectivity

**Reading: Galatians 6:1-10**

What’s wrong with these statements: “Whatever the individual does, the church does.” “Whatever the individual can do, the church can do”

**A perfect example in matt 18:15-17**

A. ***If your brother trespasses against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone:*** [individual action]

B. ***if he shall hear you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear you, then take with you one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*** [plurality of action]

C. ***And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto you as a heathen and a publican.*** [Collective action]

**the purpose determines if something is right or wrong**

In **1 Corinthians 8** in regard to eating meat offered to idols.

1. In one situation you should eat it. [Verses 4-6]

2. In another situation you should avoid it. [Verses 7-13]

The purpose for which we do things as individuals or as a collectivity makes a difference.

**1 timothy 5 shows a difference**

**[Vs 4]** ***If any widow have children or nephews (grandchildren), let them learn first to show kindness at home, and to repay their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.***  This is not the duty of the church.

**[Vs 8]** ***But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.***

**[Vs 16]** ***If any man or woman that believes have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged (burdened); that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.***

Conditions for church action: **[Vs 9]** ***Do not let a widow be taken into the number under 60 years old, having been the wife of one man***. **[Vs 10]** ***Well reported of good works: if she have brought up children, if she had lodged strangers, if she had been hospitable, if she had relieved the afflicted, if she had diligently followed every good work.***

**finances**

***[Ephesians 4:28]*** ***Let him that stole, steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that is in need.***

***2 Thessalonians 3:10*** ***If any would not work neither should he eat.***

***[James 2:15-16]*** ***If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food. And one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled; nevertheless, you did not give them the things which are needful to the body; what does it profit?***

1. This verse does not suggest that you call the treasurer to take care of it.

2. Refer to the parable of the Good Samaritan-- the church was not called to act, but the individual.

Although the individual can earn his treasury in several legal ways, the church as a collectivity has only one source of revenue. ***[1 Corinthians 16:1-2]*** ***Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do you. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.***

If there is a difference in the gathering of funds, how can we say there is no difference in the use of funds?

**making the proper application to galatians 6:10**

This passage does not put the church in the realm of a general Benevolence society. Why?

1. 1 Corinthians 16 said the collection was for needy SAINTS

2. Widow indeed and elders are the only ones mentioned specifically (to the exclusion of all else)

3. The Thessalonians, Ephesians and Timothy were all instructed to take care of their own business and families ***So the church would not be burdened***

4. If the church was not to be burdened by supporting its own why can we think that the church can be burdened in regard to strangers?

Jesus was not ignorant that man had immediate needs yet he said, ***Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*** ***[Matthew 4:4]***

***[Matthew 7:21-23]*** ***Not every one that says to me, “Lord, Lord” shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Gather which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works?” And then I will profess unto them, “I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity.”***