

INDIVIDUALS AND THE CHURCH



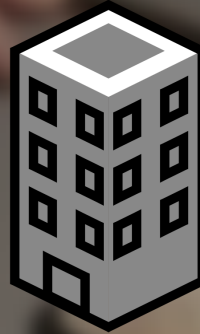
COLLECTIVE BENEVOLENCE

- Every New Testament example of church benevolence is FROM believers TO believers, without any institutional intermediary. If it is our goal to replicate New Testament Christianity, then all manmade institutions must be excluded from our collective funds.
- Acts 4:32–35, 11:29, 2:44–45, 6:1–8, 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2 Corinthians 8:4, 9:1, Romans 15:25–26.
- 1 Timothy 5:3–10 explains the New Testament pattern for supporting widows from a collective treasury. These widows, first of all, are clearly members of the church. They also must meet certain qualifications related to age and marital status. If the church is allowed to fund benevolence to those outside the church, then it is actually more convenient to not be a Christian!

HERE'S THE PROBLEM



Collective funds given to a benevolent organization such as a homeless shelter.



Anybody can come and receive help, regardless of age, marital status, reputation, or faithfulness. There are no stipulations placed upon those receiving the funds, except what the “para-church” institution imposes.



Collective funds given regularly to a widowed church member.



Scripture clearly indicates that widows must be older than 60, once married, without any relatives capable of providing care, having a reputation of good works and solid faith.

THE BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH



THE INDIVIDUAL



AND THE CHURCH

An open book with text on its pages lies on a rustic wooden surface. The wood grain is prominent and runs diagonally across the frame. The lighting is soft, creating a warm atmosphere. The text 'THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF THE CHURCH' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the book and the wood.

THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF THE CHURCH