

and profit. You too can do a great work - teaching those in error.

As members of the Lord's church, no matter where you are or think you are (liberal, anti, or straight down the line), we all should have a strong desire to correct the horrible damage done to the blood bought church. Jesus died for the church (Acts 20:28)? What are we doing for the church? **Jesus prayed for unity (John 17:20,21). Should we not be doing all we can to bring about this unity???**

I am not by any means encouraging compromising God's Word. But rather we should, "Hold fast the form of sound words" (2 Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3). When proper efforts have been made to restore the erring, and they will not hold to the God given pattern, they must be marked and withdrawn from (2 Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17).

To be anti is just as sinful as it is to be liberal. Both are guilty of changing God's law which is a most serious matter. The **liberal** rescinds commands of God while the **anti** makes laws where God has not made laws. Often times the **antis** will accuse us of being **liberal** when this is not true at all. I have heard some **antis** say, "We are more conservative than you all." I have even heard some of our own speak of the **antis** as being more conservative than us. Brethren, making laws beyond what God has made is not in any way "more conservative!" It is a most serious condition! Being conservative should mean to us: Holding straight down "**the strait and narrow**" just as close as we can.

Let us "all" strive to be in the strait and narrow which leadeth unto life (Matt. 7:13,14). And never turn aside to the right hand (**anti-ism** - includes the **NI** doctrine) or to the left (**liberalism**). Brethren have written many good articles showing the errors of **liberalism** and **anti-ism**, but perhaps I will say some things in these articles that you may have never considered. And things that are plain and simple to understand. Please study and think honestly about these matters and let us all truly strive to be and remain in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11) regardless of where family members have stood and perhaps still stand (cp. Matt. 10:37). Let us make our stand with truth / Christ.

Let us all pray for unity as Jesus did (John 17:20,21) and then set about to do something about it, but never compromise truth. Let us all examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5) and keep on searching the Scriptures to be sure we have the truth on every subject (cp. Acts 17:11). Brethren, truth / doctrine is extremely important (John 8:32; 17:17; 2 John 1:9). ♥

[Article 2 states the NI position and begins dealing with Gal. 6:10]



Sound Words



"Hold fast the form of sound words"

SW

(2 Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

SW

Church of Christ (Rom. 16:16) Mission USA

Perry Sexton 1763 Highway 166 N. Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474

Email: perrysexton@outlook.com

Website: www.mission-usa.org

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Church of Christ Non-Institutional (NI) Study (Article 1)

(A Series of Articles Dealing With This Doctrine Which Has So Miserably Divided The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ)

by Perry Sexton

These articles are written to you my beloved brethren who believe, as I do, that we are straight down the middle and have not departed to the right hand (anti-ism - includes the **NI doctrine) or to the left hand.** Not that we think that we are perfect in any area for we know that we are not, and that we must be ever watchful of errors that may creep into our lives and the church of our Lord. These articles are written to you with the intentions of encouraging you to reach out to your brothers and sisters who are caught up in this gross error. To incite in you the love of God for the brotherhood: "Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (1 Peter 2:17). And equip you with just a few of the many reasons why the **NI** doctrine is wrong and very sinful, and points in which you may reach them. It is certain, my brethren, you will never reach a single one and bring them out of that damnable error unless you try!!! **What an awful thought and dreadful record to have on our accounts when we face our loving Savior in judgment, the One who died for them also:** "I had the opportunity, but I never tried!!!" And brethren, opportunities abound. What are we waiting on?

These articles are written to you my beloved brethren who believe the NI doctrine. I mean no disrespect whatsoever by referring

to you and the **NI church as antis** for I believe that the term is accurately used. I believe that you mean no disrespect to us by referring to us as **liberals**, but I do disagree very much to the stretch that is most often used: accuse us of every liberal doctrine there is, as many of you have done. I do not mean to offend you in anything, but rather cause you to truly slow down and think and reason from the Scriptures about these things. Therefore, I will be as plain as I believe necessary in order to get the points across. **No unkindness is meant**, but simply making the points plain so they cannot be missed. And please know I write these articles to you because of my (our) love for your souls. We truly are concerned for you and the ones, including your families whom you love in a special way, for YOUR influence on them. I pray you will honestly take the time to consider each and every point made here and please know they are presented with love and concern for you and God's glorious church, and how the kingdom represents God to the world.

These articles are written to you my beloved brethren who attend the anti (NI) congregations but really do not understand their doctrine. Please read and study each point that you may understand the severity of the **NI doctrine. It is not God's doctrine. Think! You do not want your children, your loved ones to be brainwashed in that ungodly doctrine. Wherever we are, in congregations of **liberalism** or **anti-ism**, we must guard our souls and oppose the errors and come out from among them if we cannot change their errors! Remember: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8).**

Point of Study

The point of this study is primarily dealing with the church's treasury (God's money) whether or not we are authorized to use God's money to help (financially) non-Christians which of course includes widows and orphans. Often times one will find the **NI churches involved in other errors such as making it law not to eat (fellowship meals) in the church building, no separate Bible classes at the building, the use of only one cup in serving the fruit of the vine, the use of strong wine in place of the fruit of the vine, etc. And there may be variations of these, but we are not dealing with these items primarily. Please keep **the subject** point in mind: **We are dealing with the church's treasury (God's money) whether or not we are****

authorized to use God's money to help (financially) non-Christians which of course includes widows and orphans.

For clarification: If I slip somewhere and do not spell it out completely at every point, please know that I am talking with that subject in mind. **For example**, if I should say the **NI** church is not benevolent, I say that strictly with the subject in mind and you as the reader should know that. I have never said, nor have I ever believed the **NI** church is not benevolent to their own. When I say God's money, I mean by that the money that is collected in accordance to God's Word. God's money is the same as the church's money (treasury) and vice versa.

I contend that faithful members of the Lord's church may, and in fact must use God's money to help (financially) **all people** as we have opportunity in accordance to God's Word. I believe the Bible shows this clear enough for those who want the truth. But first:

A Plea For Unity

The church of our Lord is divided which is contrary to the Lord's will (John 17:20,21; 1 Cor. 1:10,13). **Liberalism** and **anti-ism** has definitely taken its toll on the blood bought church of our Lord (Acts 20:28).

The faithful church must never depart to the left hand or right hand: **Moses**, the great lawgiver of the Old Testament, wrote: "Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (Deut. 5:32). This is certainly good for our learning (Rom. 15:4). **Jesus**, the supreme lawgiver said: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:13,14).

It is very sad to see the church of Christ rent asunder by these two destructive forces (**liberalism** and **anti-ism**) of Satan. Our concern should be far above that of Nehemiah's when he heard of the sad state of Jerusalem: "And it came to pass, when I heard of these words, that I sat down and **wept**, and **mourned certain days**, and **fasted**, and **prayed** before the God of heaven," (Neh. 1:4). But Nehemiah did much more than that, he set about to help correct the problem and did a great work for the Lord from which we all can learn