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# Sound Words



**"Hold fast the form of sound words"**

*SW*

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

*SW*

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**Church of Christ Non-Institutional (NI)**

**Study: Benevolence Of The Church**

(Article Is 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 we are perfect in any area for we know 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 those involved with this doctrine. 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: accusing 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 misunderstood. And please know I write this article 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. 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).

## 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** have 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: <sup>14</sup>Because 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 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 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 (2 John 9; Rev. 22:18,19). The **liberal** rescinds commands of God while the **anti** makes laws where God has not made laws. Oftentimes 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 this article 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. Think of the much more good that could be accomplished if the church of Christ was truly united (John 17:20,21).

**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).

## 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. Oftentimes 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, and some individually are benevolent to non-Christians. 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 clearly for those who want the truth.

## The Antis' Position

**Anti means**, "A person who is opposed to [against] an action, policy or practice, etc." As stated on page 2, I mean no disrespect whatsoever in referring to the **NI** church and its members as **antis** for the term is very accurate and I want to be as accurate as I can be.

The **antis** say the church **cannot** use money from the church's treasury (God's money) to help non-Christians in any financial way. We see how the term **anti** fits them very well as they are **against** using money from their church's treasury to help any non-Christian, but I know some have helped non-Christian children whose parents are members of the **anti** church and I suspect most have done this. You may have picked up on a very **inconsistency here** in the **NI** doctrine. **Inconsistency is a mark of error.** We will deal with this more later. This is their position concerning the subject at hand, put in my own words.

## The Number One Reason Why The **NI** Doctrine Is Wrong

**The **NI** doctrine is so very contrary to the character of God.** Brethren and friends, this should cause us all to slow way down and think very carefully about this point. Any doctrine contrary to the character of God must be wrong! Please consider very carefully and honestly (Luke 8:15) the following points. And you can add many verses and points as well, but space is limited here.

## Attributes Of God

**God is love** (1 John 4:8). The Greek word for love here is agape and means, "affection, good-will, love, **benevolence** (emp. added, ps)." Volumes have been filled and more could be filled concerning the love of God, His great compassion, and mercy (cp. Psalms 86:15).

**God is charitable to His offspring** (Acts 17:28,29), humans are created in God's image (Gen. 1:26,27). Throughout the Bible God has taught, especially, His spiritual children to be charitable to all mankind. Consider: "At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the **tithe** of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay *it* up within thy gates: <sup>29</sup> And the **Levite**, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the **stranger**, and the **fatherless**, and the **widow**, which *are* within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest" (Deut. 14:28-29, et al).

**Are we not the children of Love?** We, the blood bought children of God, are God's spiritual offspring! Should we not have the same character as our Father? Remember Matthew 5:7, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Could this be any plainer: "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36). And also, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). Please consider the context of both passages.

**We can be just as blind to these things** as denominational people are to baptism if we choose to, but I think there will be no excuse for it in the Judgment. In view of the above point, how can anyone hold to the **NI** doctrine?

## Benevolence Of The Church

**God is benevolent to all men, but God's church with God's money cannot be, so say the NI church!!! Is this reasonable, logical, scriptural, and according to the pattern???** Brethren, this doctrine of the **antis** is a most serious matter. Please consider carefully the questions below and answer honestly according to your Bible knowledge. Please never read the Bible with blinders on trying only to "prove" what you already believe or have been taught. Always study the Bible to learn **the truth** (John 8:31,32). And do not look at these questions, or any others, and try to figure out what answer best serves **your** belief. Always remember Luke 8:15 – **honesty**. Our eternal soul's destiny depends upon our honesty! We must seek the truth (John 8:32). We must rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15). Do we honestly desire the truth in all things (John 8:32)?

## Luke 8:15 (KJV)

"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience."

Please circle your answer:

1. T-F **God** is **benevolent** to all people.
2. T-F **Christ** is **benevolent** to all people.
3. T-F **Humans** in general are to be **benevolent** to all.
4. T-F **Christians** are to be **benevolent** to all people!
5. T-F The **church of Christ** is to be **benevolent** to all people (Including using the church's treasury to help all men including non-Christians as we have opportunity).

**Friend, if you answered false to any of these questions I believe you are very wrong.** I do not believe anyone claiming to be a Christian would answer false to questions 1-4. Therefore, I am going to save space rather than show biblical proof for an answer of true to questions 1-4 (much has already been shown). The **antis** would agree that 1-4 are true. But what the **antis** oppose (are against) is #5.

**NI doctrine: The God of all love and compassion**, His kingdom (the greatest of all kingdoms), the church, **cannot** help from the church's treasury, non-Christian people (even though they were created by God and in the image of God). This is the **NI** doctrine and it does not matter whether they are non-Christian because of perfect innocence such as being babies or mentally incompetent people.

Concerning the **chart** and the **antis'** position of rejecting #5, **I most concernedly say this is extreme inconsistency!** The **antis** (non-institutional brethren) break the **pattern of benevolence** seen throughout the Word of God.

1. Is the anti position **reasonable**? **Not at all!**
2. Is the anti position **logical**? **Not at all!**
3. Is the anti position **scriptural**? **Not at all!**
4. Is the anti position according to "**The Pattern**"? **Not at all!**

The list of questions could go on: **Is the anti position a godly position? ... after righteousness? ... after love, ... compassionate, ... merciful, etc.?** But most of all, is the **NI** position from God? **A resounding No!**

**Is it not highly inconsistent to say and know that** God is benevolent to all people, but that God's church cannot use God's money (church's treasury) to help all people, namely non-Christians?

1. **God is benevolent to all people.**
2. **The money given belongs to God.**
3. **Therefore, God's money can and must be used when opportunities arise to help any and all people, including non-Christians.**

**If I am a benevolent person to all people, is it reasonable that I** cannot, should not, use my money to be benevolent to all people? **Certainly not.** If God is benevolent to all people, and He is, does it stand to reason that God cannot, should not, use His money to be benevolent to all people? **Absolutely no.**

**You be the judge** (cp. 1 Cor. 6:5):

- ! If a man says he is against abortion yet he builds and operates an abortion clinic, what would you think of such a one?
- ! If one says I am full of compassion, love, and mercy yet he owns a grocery store and will not give to a poor widow with hungry children, what would you think of such a one?
- ! What would the world think of a God who claims He is merciful, compassionate, and is love: Yet He will not allow His church (the greatest of all institutions), to use God's money to help His own offspring which He created in His own image? What would you think of such a God?
  - o Perhaps such actions as this from misguided religious people is why so many people disdain religion!
  - o Surely many of God's creation have had sincere needs and felt the cruelty of the ungodly **NI** doctrine!

**Does it make sense that God gave the church** the responsibility to evangelize the whole world, but cannot be benevolent to the whole world? Has not God promised to provide for every good work? "And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:" (2 Cor.

9:8). Read the whole chapter, do you not find it in perfect harmony to Gal. 6:10? See page 7b. The **NI** doctrine **defames** the name of God.

**God is love. His children individually must** be of the same love and **collectively, as the church,** must be of the same love. If we individually and collectively, the church, have the love of God in us, we will do the works of love. And we know what that includes (cp. Gal. 6:10, Jam. 1:27, etc., we will look at these later). It is highly inconsistent not to use God's money to help God's creation, including the non-Christian!

**"Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matt. 5:14). Speaking to the would be citizens of the coming kingdom / church. What kind of light does the church reflect when it does not have and exercise the characteristics of God? Much could be said about this but surely everyone can see the problems of the **NI** doctrine.

## **God Gave The Greatest Gift, Yes, To Non-Christians**

**"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift"** (2 Cor. 9:15). That unspeakable gift is Jesus. Please note that verse is in the context of **love in action** by the church using God's money, **2 Cor. 9:13** "... for *your* liberal distribution unto them [saints], and unto all *men* [non-saints] (more on this later);" following the **principle** seen throughout the Bible and plainly stated in **Gal. 6:10**. Isn't God's love, compassion, and mercy upon His creation created in His own image, wonderful?

**"For God so loved the world,** that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). But yet, according to the **NI** doctrine, God will not give one red cent from His church's treasury to help a non-Christian, whom He created in His own image! **What defamation of God's character! What blasphemy!!!** The **NI** doctrine of the **anti** church does great harm to God's church and to God's character.

**"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful"** (Luke 6:36). Would this apply to the church as well as the individual? **Of course.** If not, why not? According to the **anti (NI)** church, God will not allow His church to use His money to help those whom God

created in His own image because they have not obeyed the gospel. It doesn't matter if they are not old enough or intelligent enough to understand it. And it doesn't even matter if they have never had opportunity to hear the gospel. But we can use **our** personal money to help God's creation – our money, not God's money (church treasury). Who can swallow such things in light of the plain teachings of the Bible? Is our character greater than God's??? Who believes so?

**You be the judge** (cp. 1 Cor. 6:5):

1. Man gives freely to help all people as he is able.
2. Man does not give to help anyone.
3. Satan's organizations give to help all people.
4. God does not allow His money to be used to help His own offspring which He created in His own image (**NI** doctrine).

According to this list, which of the above use their money in an act of love or benevolence? #s: \_\_\_\_\_

## Is Money A Greater Gift Than Jesus Christ?

To look at the **NI** doctrine one could almost believe that they must think so. But surely they do not believe that!? But yet we/they have the whole Bible showing us/them the Father, and the New Testament showing us/them clearly the Son. And the many plain statements on benevolence, how the church ought to be. You have God giving the greatest gift to save the non-Christian, which we all were at one time. But then you have the **antis**, the **NI** church who will not use God's money, God's money mind you, to help those whom God created in His own image, even innocent little children! "But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14). Can YOU imagine Jesus, in such a setting, saying to Peter, "No, we cannot use the money from the treasury to feed these little children."? If YOU can imagine that, I say you have a very misguided imagination. But the **NI**s say that!

**There are many verses in the Bible dealing with money**, a very great many. Certainly it is so because God knew mankind would be sorely tempted by it. Many times we read of God's own people being caught up in evil things because of the love of money, **1 Tim. 6:10** "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after,

they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Let us all beware!

## The Antis' Position Robs God Of His Glory

**God's Word** is, "Unto him *be glory in the church.*" Here is the context of which that statement is found: "<sup>20</sup>Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, <sup>21</sup>Unto him *be glory in the church* by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:20,21). With the **antis'** position it would be much easier for the individual to get caught up in vain pride, boasting of his good works. The conscientious Christian would help the needy and do other good works through the church as much as is possible for this reason: "Unto him *be glory in the church.*" This is certainly not to say the individual should not help as opportunities are afforded him / her.

"Unto him *be glory in the church* by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21). David Lipscomb wrote concerning this passage: "**The church**, being the creation of **God's love** in Christ and the receptacle of his communicative fullness, is the instrumentality formed for his praise. His worship is a daily tribute to the divine majesty and bounty. The life of her people in the world, her warfare against sin, **her ceaseless ministries to human sorrow...**" [*New Testament Commentary* – Gospel Advocate Co., 1989, emp. added, ps].

**Individually** we can do a lot, but **collectively** we can do so much more! **You think God knows that?**

## The **Antis** Claim There Is **No** Authority

The **antis** claim there is **no authority** to use money from the church's treasury (God's money) to help the non-Christian. Namely the **antis** insist there is no **example** of it being done in the New Testament. These statements are false.

## Authority

We **must** have authority for everything we do (Col. 3:17; John 4:24). I believe a lot of our problems stem from brethren who do not

understand authority and others who misuse it, intentionally or not. From the Bible I full well believe the church, with God's money, has authority to help non-Christians financially and is indeed obligated to do so. This, I believe, is easily proven even though the **antis** have, and may continue to **REJECT** the truth on the matter. This should be no surprise to us for many **REJECT** many truths in the Bible. It is easy to prove baptism is essential to salvation, but look how many **REJECT** that truth. People's **REJECTION** does not mean we have not given proof! Did Jesus fail in giving proof? No, but look how many **REJECTED** Him and His Word, and multitudes times multitudes still **REJECT** His truths (cp. John 12:48). **REJECTION** of truth is one reason why so many will be lost. Please, let us all have the mind of Christ as you / I consider these things (Gal. 5:22,23 cp. 6:1; John 17:20,21).

**The Bible authorizes by:** direct statements/commands, examples, implications/expediency/necessary inference. All we need is one statement from any one of these areas for a matter to be authorized. But let us all be **warned**, we must be very careful to **make sure** we have authority for what we practice (Col. 3:17 is very important as well as 2 John 9, etc.).

## Galatians 6:10 Is Absolutely For The Church

**The book of Galatians was written “unto the churches of Galatia”** (Gal. 1:2). It is clear that **Galatians 6:10** is for the church as well as individual members: “As we have therefore **opportunity**, let us do **good** unto **all men**, **especially** unto them who are of the household of faith.” Why would anyone want to **REJECT** this truth (cp. John 12:48)?

**The antis say Gal. 6:10 is for the individual Christian only and does not authorize God's people to use the church's treasury (God's money) to help “the created in the image of God non-Christian.”** Later we will look more at the **antis'** erroneous position that Gal. 6:10 is only for the individual Christian. But please note now, and forever keep in mind the simple fact that Galatians, which naturally includes 6:10, was written to the church (actually the whole New Testament was). No matter what the **antis** say they can never get around this fact, but I pray that they all will accept this truth and make proper application before they face this truth in the Judgment!

I know many are caught up in the **NI** errors for reasons from total innocency to total ignorancy. One example would be new converts to that church. But then there surely are those who are just downright dishonest people who use religion for their own personal gains. Jesus warned of such unscrupulous people as well as did others in the Bible (cp. Matt. 7:15; 23:15; 2 Peter 1:1-3; 1 Peter 5:8). And I want to expose those errors very plainly and as hard as I can in order that the innocent ones may see the truth and just how ungodly those errors are.

## Galatians 6:10 Is Something The Church Can Do And Therefore Must Do

**It is futile for the NI church to try to prove that Gal. 6:10** is not for the church. It is for the church and so clearly stated, “unto the churches of Galatia” (Gal. 1:2). Plainly stated to the church, “As we have therefore **opportunity**, let us **do good** unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10).

- ♥ Is it possible for **the church** to have “**opportunity**” to do good unto all *men*, including using God's money (the church's treasury) to help people who are created by God and in the image of God; who may have never even heard the gospel of Christ; who may not even have the ability to understand that gospel because of their youth or even mental incompetence? **Yes**, it is possible for **the church** to have “**opportunity**” to do good unto all *men*! And may those who say no consider cautiously their understanding of God and His Word.
- ♥ Is it possible for **the church** to “**do good**” unto all *men*, including using God's money? **Yes!**
- ♥ The only reason why the church could not **do good** unto all *men*, including using God's money is because of men **REJECTING** the truth from God.
- ♥ **There is absolutely no scriptural reason for the church not to obey Gal. 6:10 using the church's treasury.**
- ♥ **The antis cannot prove that Gal. 6:10** is something that the church cannot do. They are guilty of **REJECTING** a commandment of God and a commandment which involves the second greatest commandment (see Matt. 22:39).

**As with the denominations:** The basic theme of error is

REJECTION of God's truth no matter how they go about it.

## A look At Some Definitions And Observations

**Galatians 6:10** "As we have therefore **opportunity**, let us do **good** unto **all men, especially** unto them who are of the household of faith."

- ♥ "opportunity" = A possibility due to a favorable combination of circumstances. Example: When the church has sufficient funds and anyone has a sincere need, including non-Christians (Matt. 22:39), the church may/should help in accordance with Bible principles.
- ♥ "good" = Having desirable or positive qualities especially those suitable for a thing specified. Example: Sometimes the good may be done by a member of the church giving a ride to someone in need, or mowing their lawn until the one responsible is able to mow again. Sometimes the needs are extensive and may be best served by the church cooperating (a list of volunteers for example) to take care of the need without anyone being unduly burdened (principle of 2 Cor. 8:13,14, etc.). Sometimes it is wiser and acceptable to give money. When godly men (such as elders) decide who to help and how, and if it is by some monetary means and money is taken from the treasury, **every faithful contributing member has a part in that good work and God is glorified by it** (Eph. 3:21). That is God's system and it is marvelous.
- ♥ "all men," is obviously referring to the non-Christian as well as members of the church: "... all *men*, **especially** unto them who are of the household of faith." You see the contrast and a very understandable and appropriate contrast our Lord has made. You see this contrast elsewhere in the New Testament, such as in the distribution of the collection (next paragraph).
- ♥ "especially" = To a distinctly greater extent or degree than is common; In a special manner. Example: Concerning the collection of **1 Cor. 16:1,2** for the poor saints, I believe we see an example of some of that money given to help non-Christians, note: **2 Cor. 9:11-13** "Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> For the administration of

this service not only supplieth the want of the **saints**, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; <sup>13</sup> Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they **glorify God** for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for *your* liberal distribution unto **them**, and unto **all men**;" Let us start with "all men" and work backwards:

- "all men" of 2 Cor. 9:11-13 compared (cp.) to "all men" of Gal. 6:10.
  - In both instances we find "**men**" in the KJV, which I use, to be supplied by the translators and indicated by *italicization*.
  - I know of no one, **antis** included, who disputes that in **Gal. 6:10** the "**all men**" includes the non-Christian.
  - But in **2 Cor. 9:11-13** (above) the **antis** seem desperate to want "**all men**" to refer to saints only.
    - Look at 2 Cor. 9:11-13 and see how that fits: "**them**" clearly refers back to the saints. So, according to the **antis**, the Bible would read, "unto **them** (saints), and unto all (saints)." I do not believe the Holy Spirit intended that at all!!! I am not a Greek scholar, but do I have scholarly support for my conclusion? I think so:
    - **The KJV translated this** and supplied the word "**men**," which in the KJV such supplied words by the translators are *italicized*, which is a great help for Bible students. The point is, these translators inserted "**men**" for clarity and not "*saints*." **Is it not obvious what the translators believed?**
    - The KJV was translated by 47 of the "best" scholars. You can check that out.
    - Multitudes of people, including me, believe the KJV to be a most, if not the most, reliable version we have. Will the **antis** discredit the 47 scholars here? I hate to say it, but I have seen them do just as the denominations do and the **liberals** among us do, and that is to get around what they want to get around by one means or the other. If one thing doesn't work, they'll come up with another.
    - Brethren, I do not want to get around anything the Bible teaches, rather I want to bring my life into full understanding and conformity to God's Word.

- “**glorify God**” in **2 Cor. 9:11-13** – the individuals gave to God, collected in the church’s treasury. This money, God’s money, was used in full accordance to **Gal. 6:10** “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto **all men**, **especially unto them who are of the household of faith**.”
  - The collection was **especially** for the poor saints, but I am convinced by the Scriptures that it served to help non-Christians as well.
  - Based on the afore mentioned, and most importantly:
  - Based on **God’s character** and His great concern for His creation – mankind created in His image! Can you imagine the God of the Bible having us, His people – His church / kingdom, not use His money to help others (non-Christians) created in His own image when they have legitimate needs and we have opportunity??? The **antis** should look closer at Gal. 6:10 and the whole Bible which show us God.
- **Ephesians 3:21** “Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”  
[Definitions (=) are from WordWeb.info]

Please think on this: This collection was by commandment, **1 Cor. 16:1,2** and was specifically (especially) for the poor saints, but not exclusively to saints as we have seen from **2 Cor. 9:11-13**. But also study carefully **Acts 24:17**, “Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.” This is from the same collection and Paul declares plainly, “bring alms to my nation,” surely including non-Christians, if one will accept and not **REJECT** the truth. So very plainly the book of **Galatians** was written to the church (1:2) which includes (6:10). Also, God gave us two examples of His money being used to help His own (created in the image of God) creation because of His great love and concern for all His creation. **Galatians 6:10 is for the church**, do not let anyone rob you of the truth (John 8:31,32).

## The **Antis** Point Out Gal. 6:10 Is In The Context Of Paul Addressing The Individual Christians

We have seen **2 Cor. 9:11-13** and **Acts 24:17** which gives an **example** of **Gal. 6:10** being carried out: “... for *your* liberal distribution unto **them** [saints], and unto **all men**,” [I believe referring to the non-

Christian for reasons given above].” I believe these verses and Acts 24:17 give the example the **antis** say is missing. But in reality we do not need an example of it being carried out. All we need is the plain and easy to understand **Gal. 6:10**. No matter how desperately the **antis** try they will never get around the plain fact that **Gal. 6:10** was written to the church (Gal. 1:2), no not in this life or in the Judgment.

The **antis** will respond by pointing out Gal. 6:10 is in the context of Paul addressing the individual Christians. They normally start at Gal. 6:1 and go through most of the chapter.

**But please go through the book of Galatians and you will see** right off, and all the way through the book how many times personal pronouns are used (cp. all the New Testament). How else are you going to address the church? How can the church act without individuals doing it? What is the church made up of in the first place (Acts 2:41,47)? Brethren, if you separate the Christians from the church, you have no church at all! The New Testament is for the church and the members that make up the church, is it not?

## Do The Principles Of Galatians Chapter 6 Apply Only To Individuals?

**How easy it is to forget when a thing does not serve our purpose, if our purpose is to defend our doctrine!** We should not have to be reminded, but sometimes we find it necessary to remind some of the basics of Bible interpretation. And the reminder here is that the Bible does not teach only by “Thou shalt ...” and “Thou shalt not ...” We are taught by **principles** also and here is a good place to see one. **Gal. 6:1** “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

- ♥ Could we not also apply this to a woman? **Yes.**
- ♥ Could we not also apply this to a teenage, male or female? **Yes.**
- ♥ Have we not a principle in this verse as well as in many verses? **Absolutely.**
- ♥ What if a whole congregation is “overtaken in a fault,” should not a spiritually sound congregation try to restore them? **Surely so!** Unless you miss the principle.
- ♥ Do you see a principle in Ephesians 5:22-32, note esp. v.32?

The **antis** will point out again that the individual is addressed in Gal. 6:7 “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Does God use this principle in dealing with churches? **Of course God does**, see Rev. 2:1ff. Can we apply this principle to whole congregations? **Surely**.

**How about verse 9**, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” **Better see Rev. 2:1ff. again. Remember, the book of Galatians and others** were specifically addressed to the church, but in fact we know they all are intended for the church and for the church to proclaim God’s Word to the whole world (Eph. 3:10; Mark 16:15; 2 Tim. 4:2, etc.). **The church is bound to do as God instructs the individual Christian in every respect in as much as is possible.** For further example: The Christian is to keep himself pure (1 Tim. 5:22). What about the church? **Of course**. You can think of multitudes of examples.

**It is the anti church that will strain at a gnat and swallow** this unbelievable **NI** doctrine, but why? Love of tradition more than truth? Love of family more than God? Love of money more than love for all of mankind?

## James 1:27 Is For The Church

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. <sup>2</sup> My brethren, ...” (James 1:1,2). James 1:27 was definitely written to the church. To deny this is to say the book of James is not for us today. Please consider: “the phrase, ‘the twelve tribes,’ as figurative, and therefore to embrace the disciples of the Lord of whatever race or nationality.” [Guy N. Woods, Gospel Advocate Commentary.] **So James addresses the church and proceeds, “My brethren ....”** See points on Galatians (page 7ff).

**God makes it perfectly clear what pure religion is:** “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27). **Will any deny this???** The **antis** will have to admit that according to their position the church **cannot practice pure religion with God’s money!** This is a very serious charge from the **antis** to God concerning God’s church!!! I would hate to face God with this on my record.

1. **Pure religion** is to help care for the fatherless and widows in their affliction.
2. The **anti** church does not do this with money from the church’s treasury.
3. Therefore the churches of the **antis** are not practicing pure religion using God’s money!

## Can anyone honestly add that up any differently?

1. Is the **anti** church’s money so precious that it should not be used to help even God’s own offspring (Acts 17:28)?
2. Is money a greater gift than Jesus Christ (see page 6a)?
3. Is it reasonable to you that God would give His only begotten Son to the world, but will not allow His money to be used to help the world, His creation, His offspring?

**Maybe we should examine our view of money** (2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:10).

**Can you really believe that the God of all love, compassion, and mercy, will not allow His church (the greatest of all institutions) to use His money to be loving, compassionate, and merciful to God’s own creatures who are in the image of God, just because they may have never even heard of Jesus and/or the truth of the gospel?** The innocent little children who cannot even understand the gospel – can you really believe that God will not allow His money to be used to feed and care for these individuals???

If you do, something bad is wrong. Either you have been very deceived, and if that is the case after studying these points, I believe you should not be deceived, or else you are very ungodly.

## The **Antis** Will Counter: That’s An Argument From Emotions / Compassion!

**You better believe it.** And as long as God is a God of love and as long as I am His child of love I will continue using such arguments. Can you honestly say God has never used such an argument? What about His Son? I use such quite often in extending the great invitation of my Savior. I have already shown that we do have **authority** from Heaven to use God’s money to help God’s creatures, including non-Christians, who have legitimate needs.

If the church anywhere is not practicing Galatians 6:10 and James 1:27 it needs to repent. For unto the church it is said: “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10); “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27). And we have example of the church doing so (2 Cor. 9:13, see page 8a).

## The Antis’ Unbelievable Position

1. Can take money from the church’s treasury and feed (fertilize and care for) the grass.
2. Cannot take money from the church’s treasury to feed a starving baby fresh from God who gave that soul (Eccl. 12:7).
3. The anti church with God’s money (church’s treasury) is more benevolent to the grass than they are to human babies, God’s own offspring, created in His image.
4. The grass and the humans were both created by God. Which do you think is most important to God (cp. Luke 12:24)? Which is most important to YOU?

**For the NI’s: Are You Sure You Want To Face God With This On Your Record? Please Consider These Things Honestly.**

**James 1:27 is for the church.** There is absolutely no scriptural reason for the church not to practice pure religion: visiting (helping) with the church’s money, the non-Christian fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep itself (themselves) unspotted from the world (cp. James 1:27).

**The antis cannot prove that Galatians 6:10 and James 1:27 is not for the church.** It seems quite arrogant to me that they would even try to do so in face of the fact that both Scriptures are within books addressed to the church. One may as well say the church cannot be loving, only the individual can be. In fact, is this not what the NIs are saying? Brethren, wake up. Again: **The church is bound to do as God instructs the individual Christian in every respect in as much as is possible.** Does God have one standard for the church and another for the members (Christians) of the church?? Of course not!

Again, we need to be reminded that the church is the people who have obeyed the gospel (Acts 2:41,47). **There is absolutely no scriptural reason for the church not to obey Gal. 6:10 and James 1:27 using the church’s treasury.**

**But consider again the antis’ statement:** “The individual member has that responsibility.” But do the individuals always deal with the need? No. Sound brethren have told of many red and embarrassed faces when some of the anti members have been asked about them individually helping non-members, orphans and widows. Let us all examine ourselves in all things (2 Cor. 13:5).

## Is Every Member Of The NI Church Practicing “Pure Religion”?

**Read again James 1:27 and examine yourself** (2 Cor. 13:5). How terrible it would be not to practice “pure religion.” The NI church’s position is, the church cannot practice “pure religion,” therefore their members cannot do so through the church! So EVERY member must be certain and very careful to practice “pure religion” before God! This is not a one time thing, but an ongoing process, as is Christianity. Note: “The infinitive, “to visit,” is in the present tense, thus indicating a continuous and habitual action, “Keep on visiting the fatherless and widow. . .” Jesus said, “For ye have the poor always with you, and whensoever ye will ye can do them good. . .” (Mark 14:7.) The obligation remains so long as the need continues; and, since the need always exists, the obligation continues.” [Gospel Advocate Commentaries – on the Epistle of James.]

## How About “unspotted from the world?”

**Much more** could be said on every point but I will close this section with this point: If Jam. 1:27 is not for the church as the NIs say, does that mean the church does not have to keep itself unspotted from the world? Please think!!!

## Two Positions Stated

**Antis’ position:** They will not use money from the church’s

treasury (God's money) to help any non-Christian no matter what the circumstances are. They will not use God's money to help the non-Christian who has not even heard of Jesus and the gospel, the innocent little children from God (including those in the womb), those mentally incapable of understanding and obeying God's Word. Even though all people are created in the image of God and are God's offspring!!! **The problem:** The **NI** position is ungodly, unloving, uncharitable, and in every way contrary to God and His Word.

**God's position:** Individuals and the church are to be benevolent to all people (Gal. 6:10; 2 Cor. 9:13; James 1:27, etc.). This is in full keeping with God's character. The Scriptures are very plain for those who want the truth (cp. 2 Thess. 2:10,11).

**Please consider**, which is most likely to be capable of caring for the needy: the individual Christian or the church collectively? **The church of course.** Do you think God knows that??? The next paragraph shows this well. There are many reasons for this but one very obvious reason is sheer strength in numbers. Pro or con in people's minds, but the bottom line is that is what God has decreed (ibid).

## Examples of The Two Positions

The **antis** have, and no doubt do help their own members from their church's treasury, and certainly some of their members have helped, with their own money, non-Christians of every sort. But is every member financially able to help widows and orphans? Can the ones who are receiving funds from the church really help those non-Christians, in particular, widows and orphans? And if the **NI** doctrine were right (which it certainly is not) would it be right for one receiving **NI** church funds to take that money or even their own money and help a non-Christian? No, not according to the **NI** doctrine. But the main point here is that not all **NI** members can afford to help orphans and widows which both are requirements of the Lord in order to practice "pure and undefiled religion" (Jam. 1:27). So, the **NI** doctrine greatly hinders and even prevents the poorer members from practicing God's requirement of "pure and undefiled religion." God's way does not!

## The Way It Is According To The Pattern Of Our Loving And Compassionate God

**God's people make up His glorious, loving, and compassionate church** (Acts 2:47). God's people (individually) must be benevolent to all people according to their abilities. God's church must be benevolent to all people according to its abilities. When godly men are appointed as elders and make godly decisions as to whom they will help, and other good works based upon God's Word, the poorest of members, with their meagerest contribution (cp. Mark 12:42), have a very real part in all those good works. They have a real part in helping the orphans, widows, and others with sincere needs, which otherwise they may not have because of meager incomes. Is there any godly wisdom here? **Well yes, after all it is God's Word.** And when the church is truly involved in doing the works God has given it to do every faithful member sees it and are encouraged to give even more: See on the website *Sound Words* article 2015,4, "God Will Supply."

## Shall The Church Of Christ Just Look On While Many Non-Christians Stand In Need?

I remember many years ago hearing on the news about a woman being stabbed to death on a public street and many people just "looked on" and did nothing while she received many wounds and died! The world is watching the church. What kind of image do we give them of the church and our God? The All Seeing Eye is looking on us to see how we are using **His money – the church's treasury**. Are we individually, or as the church guilty of "hiding" the Lord's money by some means whether it be of fear, or covetousness (cp. Matt. 25:14-30)? How do you think God would have us use His money? God has told us, has He not (Gal. 6:10; James 1:27)?

**When there is doubt we should take the safest road possible.** Clearly that would be the church helping non-Christians as we have opportunity (Gal. 6:10); and practicing, "Pure religion ... visit[ing, i.e. helping] the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world" (James cp. Eph. 5:27).

**There are reasons why people hold error of any kind, but I have never heard of a good reason.** I know, some are honestly misinformed, but for those, their error should not last long **IF** they are studying as they ought to (2 Tim. 2:15; Luke 8:15).

**Let us all pray for unity as Jesus did and then set about to do**

## something about it, but never compromise truth.

### Please consider:

- ♥ So much is written on the love of God and good works.
- ♥ In John 6 Jesus fed the multitudes knowing many would not follow Him.
- ♥ **NI's** position is somewhat like a bribe in that their church will not care for those who have not obeyed the gospel, but if they obey then the **NI** church will care for them.
- ♥ If there is an area that is unclear to me, I should desire to “err on the safe side.” Clearly, even for the staunch **NI** doctrine followers, when the “sum” is considered, the safe side would be to give our benevolent God’s money to help those non-Christians with their physical needs as we have therefore opportunity.

I want to follow God’s way as best as I can and not reject plain Scriptures such as Gal. 6:10 and Jam. 1:27, for in doing so I know I am rejecting Christ and my own salvation (John 12:48).

**Maybe we ALL should examine our view of money** (2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:10).

## Remember

- ♥ God is love (1 John 4:8).
- ♥ Christians are the “children of love.”
- ♥ Christians are to do the work of love (1 Thess. 1:3; Heb. 6:10).
- ♥ Christians make up the glorious church (Acts 2:47).
- ♥ The church is bound to do as God instructs the individual Christian in every respect in as much as is possible. God does not have one standard for the church and another for the members (individual Christians) of the church!!!
- ♥ Gal. 6:10 and Jam. 1:27 are addressed to the church.
- ♥ You do not want to make “the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition,” do you (cp. Matt. 15:3ff)?

## A Few Closing Thoughts

Even though we are bringing this study to an end, it does not mean that this study is exhaustive. As I mentioned in the beginning many others have written on this matter and no doubt even with that more could be said. But I believe enough has been said here alone to convince those who will **honestly** consider each point diligently. **Let us be sure of our doctrine:** 2 John 9; 2 Cor. 13:5; Luke 8:15; 2 Tim. 2:15; Matt. 5:6.

### If God were here today as a man:

- ♥ Would God use His money to help the non-Christian? \_\_\_\_\_
- ♥ What possible motive would God have in having His church not use His money to help the non-Christian who were also created in His image? \_\_\_\_\_
- ♥ Which shows forth the love of God: (1) Use God’s money (in the church’s treasury) to help the non-Christian, or (2) Never use God’s money (in the church’s treasury) to help the non-Christian? \_\_\_\_\_
- ♥ Who receives the glory when God’s money (in the church’s treasury) is used to help the non-Christian? \_\_\_\_\_
- ♥ Who receives the glory when man uses his own money to help the non-Christian? \_\_\_\_\_
- ♥ Where should the glory be (Eph. 3:21)? \_\_\_\_\_

God was here and He did use His resources to help man. Now that the **antis** have God’s pocketbook they will not use it for these good works mentioned (Gal. 6:10; James 1:27, etc.). Let us be careful that in that great Judgment Day we are not reproved in such a manner as Luke 11:42.

### Please consider the **anti** doctrine vs the truth:

- × **NI**s say Gal. 6:10 and Jam. 1:27 are not for the church.
  - ✓ God says it is; Gal. 1:2 and Jam. 1:1.
- × **NI**s say no example of church giving money to non-Christian.
  - ✓ There are God given examples: 2 Cor. 9:13; Acts 24:17, see page 8ff.
- × **NI**s say no authority for church to give money to non-Christian.
  - ✓ God gives us that authority: Gal. 6:10; Jam. 1:27; 2 Cor. 9:13; Acts 24:17.
- × **NI** doctrine defames God!

- ✓ God is benevolent unto all men. A great host of verses show this such as: “He [God] doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment” (Deut. 10:18 see 26:12; Psa. 146:9).

### Whom will you follow???

**Doctrine is a most serious matter:** “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9). Let us search the Scriptures with an honest desire for God’s truth in all matters (Acts 17:11; Luke 8:15; John 8:31,32).

**The command: Galatians 6:10; the example: 2 Corinthians 9:11-13.** How is it that some miss these plain statements? Many have been raised in the anti-church or converted into it, and may have never heard these Scriptures presented correctly. I beg you, for your own soul’s sake and for those whom you influence – your loved ones, please accept what the Bible plainly teaches.

**Same Tactics As The Denominations:** You know at least some of the tactics denominational people use to get around baptism as being essential to salvation. The basic theme is REJECTION of God’s truth no matter how they go about it. No matter what they say about Mark 16:16, I am not giving up Mark 16:16, nor any other truth. And I am not about to budge by the harping of the antis saying Gal. 6:10 and James 1:27 is for the individual Christian only and is not to the church and therefore, so they say, there is no authority to use God’s money (the church’s treasury) to help the non-Christians, including widows and orphans.

### Repeated for Emphases:

## The Way It Is According To The Pattern Of Our Loving And Compassionate God

God’s people make up His glorious, loving, and compassionate church (Acts 2:47). God’s people (individually) must be benevolent to all people according to their abilities. God’s church must be benevolent to all people according to its abilities. When godly men are appointed

as elders and make godly decisions as to whom they will help, and other good works based upon God’s Word, the poorest of members, with their meagerest contribution (cp. Mark 12:42), have a very real part in all those good works. They have a real part in helping the orphans, widows, and others with sincere needs, which otherwise they may not have because of meager incomes. Is there any godly wisdom here? **Well yes, after all it is God’s Word.** And when the church is truly involved in doing the works God has given it to do every faithful member sees it and is encouraged to give even more: See on the website SW article 2015,4, “God Will Supply.”

## The NI Doctrine Is Wrong Because Of Two Basic Foundational Truths:

1. It is contrary to the character of God (page 3b).
2. Therefore, it is contrary to God’s Word: Gal. 6:10 and Jam. 1:27, etc. (page 7ff).

## Closing

**Brethren**, let us all fervently pray about this matter and diligently study the Scriptures with an honest heart desiring to know and obey the truth, hungering for the blessed unity for which our Lord prayed.

I say again, I write these things in love of God, truth, the church, and souls of men. ♥