

Dear reader, it is vital for us to know the truth (John 8:31,32) and to bring our beliefs into conformity to the **doctrine** of Christ (2 John 9); to take upon us the great qualities and attributes of God; and have the **unity** for which our Savior prayed (John 17:20,21). It is with these matters in mind that I write this short brochure, but **a much more in-depth study can be found on the website** given at the end of this article. Or email perrysexton@outlook.com for the study to be sent to you by email or regular mail.

I write this article because of my (our-the church's) **love** for your souls.

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 taken its toll on the blood bought church of our Lord (Acts 20:28).

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, including widows and orphans.

I contend that the Lord's church may, and in fact must use money from the treasury 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." I mean no disrespect whatsoever in referring to the **Church of Christ Non-Institutional (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, including widows and infants, in any financial way.

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

The **NI** doctrine is so very contrary to the character of God and therefore contrary to God's Word. Brethren and friends, this should cause us all to slow way down and think very carefully about this point. 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).

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???** 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**.

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 - using the church's treasury to help all men including non-Christians.

Friend, if you answered false to any of these questions I believe you are very wrong. The **antis** would agree that 1-4 are true. But what the **antis** oppose (are against) is #5.

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.**

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];" 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?

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).

♥ 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. ¹² For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the **saints**, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; ¹³ 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**;”

○ “**all men**” of 2 Cor. 9:11-13 compared to “**all men**” of Gal. 6:10.

- **The KJV translation** supplied the word “*men*,” which such supplied words by the translators are *italicized*. 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.

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

The **NI's** say so, but we need to be reminded 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?

Much more on all points and many other points can be seen in the complete article. See website address below.

Pure Religion

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.

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* bulletin article 2015,4, “God Will Supply.”

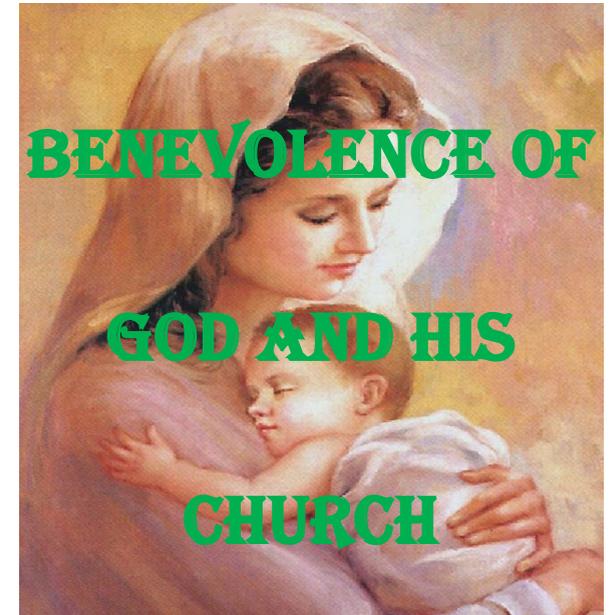
In summary, we can clearly see that God intends for His money in the church's treasury is to be used to help all, as we have opportunity, who are truly in need.

See *Sound Words* bulletin at www.mission-usa.org for the complete article: <http://mission-usa.org/documents/NIArticleRevisedArt.pdf> ♥

For more articles on the church you read of in the Bible and the salvation of your soul, see *Words of Life* bulletin on the website above.

Email: perrysexton@outlook.com

Compliments of
“THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST”
(Romans 16:16)



Through the ages men have spilt off from the true church, whether directly or indirectly, and have made their own churches.

Some even use modified designations of the true church such as: United Church of Christ; Church of Christ Instrumental (the Christian Church); Church of Christ Non-Institutional (NI or antis).

It is this later spilt off we direct this study to, in particular, a study of God and His church's benevolence.

By Perry Sexton