

Acts 20:28 (NKJV)

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

Ephesians 3:9-11 (NKJV)

“and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,”

Ephesians 5:22-27 (NKJV)

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

The Authorized Work of the Church

- This is an issue of authority
- Authority is not established by:
 - Our opinions

Jeremiah 10:23 (NKJV)

“O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”

The Authorized Work of the Church

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 - Other men

Matthew 15:19 (NKJV)

“And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

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 - The Old Testament

Colossians 2:14-16 (NKJV)

“having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,”

Galatians 3:24,25 (NKJV)

“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

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- Our authority must come from Jesus

Matthew 17:1-5 (NKJV)

“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"”

Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

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- Our authority must come from Jesus
- We establish authority by:
 - Direct command/statement

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

James 2:11 (NKJV)

“For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.”

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- We establish authority by:
 - Direct command/statement
 - Necessary inference/unavoidable conclusion

Acts 8:35,36 (NKJV)

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"”

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 - Direct command/statement
 - Necessary inference/unavoidable conclusion
 - Approved example

Philippians 3:17 (NKJV)

“Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”

Philippians 4:9 (NKJV)

“The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

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I Corinthians 11:23,24 (NKJV)

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."”

Acts 20:7 (NKJV)

“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.”

Exodus 20:8 (NKJV)

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

I Corinthians 16:2 (NKJV)

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”

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 - Necessary inference/unavoidable conclusion
 - Approved example
- There is a difference between generic and specific authority

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)

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 - Approved example
- There is a difference between generic and specific authority
- Silence is prohibitive, not permissive

Hebrews 7:14 (NKJV)

“For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.”

The Authorized Work of the Church

- The authorized work of the church is:
 - Evangelism

I Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)

“but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Ephesians 3:10,11 (NKJV)

“to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,”

Philippians 1:3-5 (NKJV)

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,”

I Thessalonians 1:8 (NKJV)

“For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”

The Authorized Work of the Church

- The authorized work of the church is:
 - Evangelism
 - Edification

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV)

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

I Corinthians 14:26 (NKJV)

“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”

The Authorized Work of the Church

- The authorized work of the church is:
 - Evangelism
 - Edification
 - Benevolence

I Corinthians 16:1-3 (NKJV)

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.”

I Timothy 5:16 (NKJV)

“If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.”

Acts 11:29 (NKJV)

“Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.”

Romans 15:25,26 (NKJV)

“But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.”

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 - Edification
 - Benevolence
- There is no other work authorized for the church.

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 - Evangelism
 - Edification
 - Benevolence
- There is no other work authorized for the church.
- The church should not employ physical enticements

John 6:5-14 (NKJV)

“Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."”

John 6:24-27 (NKJV)

“when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."”

The Authorized Work of the Church

- The authorized work of the church is:
 - Evangelism
 - Edification
 - Benevolence
- There is no other work authorized for the church.
- The church should not employ physical enticements
- The church should not provide entertainment/recreation

I Corinthians 11:34 (NKJV)

“But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.”

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- The authorized work of the church is:
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- There is no other work authorized for the church.
- The church should not employ physical enticements
- The church should not provide entertainment/recreation
- There is a difference between the church and the individual

I Timothy 5:4 (NKJV)

“But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.”

I Timothy 5:16 (NKJV)

“If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.”

James 1:27 (NKJV)

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Galatians 6:10 (NKJV)

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

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