

1  **The Church and the Individual**

2  **QUESTION:**

- When an individual Christian does something, is the whole church responsible?
- Is it the same thing as the church doing it?

3  **Three Types of Action**

- Individual
- Concurrent
- Collective

4  **Any service to Christ must be by His Authority**

Colossians 3:17

5  **Ask Yourself:**

- Who is authorized?
- Who is responsible?
- Who is accountable?

6  **Most action is Individual**

- Romans 14:12
- II Corinthians 5:10

7  **Most action is Individual**

- Examples:
- Love wife Ephesians 5:25
- Bring up children in nurture and admonition of the Lord Ephesians 6:4
- Provide for family - I Timothy 5:8
- Care for needy - James 1:27
- Practice holiness - James 1:27

8  **Ask Yourself:**

- Who is authorized?
- Who is responsible?
- Who is accountable?

9  **God wants some Actions to be Concurrent**

- Concurrent = at the same place & time with others
- To Be done "in church" (not a building but a setting)

10  **God wants some Actions to be Concurrent**

- Examples
 - Lord's Supper – I Corinthians 11:33
 - Prayers – I Corinthians 14:15-16
 - Giving – I Corinthians 16:1-2
- Our accountability
 - Responsible for what we participate in and our heart
 - Not responsible for the heart of others

11  **Ask Yourself:**

- Who is authorized?
- Who is responsible?
- Who is accountable?

12  **The church acting Collectively**

When church acts collectively ALL members share in accountability and/or benefit

13  **The church acting Collectively**

- Examples:

- Philippi to Paul – Philippians 4:15-16
 - Churches of Macedonia
 - II Corinthians 8:1-4
 - Church at Corinth toward wayward brother
 - I Corinthians 5:1-5
- 14  **Collective Action**
- Agreement
 - Pooling of Resources
 - Oversight
- 15  **What is the church authorized to do collectively?**
- Provide for needs of its own members
- Spiritual
 - Assembly needs
 - Edification and Admonition
 - Discipline
 - Material – Acts 4:32-35
 - Needy among
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- 16  **What is the church authorized to do collectively?**
- Provide for needy saints elsewhere
- II Corinthians 9:12-14
- Support preachers
- I Corinthians 9:14
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- 17  **Respecting the Authority of the Scriptures**
- What God has authorized for the individual is not for the church
 - When we give the work of the individual to the church, we burden the church with a work that God has not intended it to have. I Timothy 5:16
- 18  **Respecting the Authority of the Scriptures**
- The work of the church defines it as the Lord's church as much as the organization and worship.
- (Consider the admonitions to the seven churches of Asia – Revelation 1-3)
- 19  **KING UZZIAH**
- II Chronicles 26
- :3-4 Good King
- :16 His Sin
- :17-18 Resisted by priests
- :19-21 God Struck him with Leprosy
- 20  **What did King Uzziah do wrong?**
- Burning incense was part of temple worship
 - God had only authorized the priests to burn incense
 - Uzziah was punished because he tried to do what God had only authorized others to do.
- 21  **Following the authority of Christ**
- Doing God's will in God's Way:
 - What we do
 - How we do it
 - Who does it (church or individual)
- 22  **Obeying the gospel**
- Individual Decision
 - You must decide or it has no value
 - Do you want to follow Christ?