

JUST WHERE IS THE AUTHORITY?

By Scott Parker

If human institutions - no matter how they are funded - can do the work God gave both individuals and local congregations to do, then we ought to be able to find authority for the practice. Remember, scripture furnish us unto all good works (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). Can we find authority for colleges and foundations to do what they are currently doing? Let the following chart help answer the query.

Specific biblical duty; i.e. the specific action that is to be carried out per the New Testament	Authority for individuals to engage in said action whether via a solo or concurrent effort	Authority for the local church (God's collectivity) to engage in said action	Authority for human institutions (man-made collectivities) to engage in said action
Reaching out to lost with the word of God	Matt 28:16-9; 2 Tim. 2:2 Gal 6:1; Acts 8:1-5 Acts 13:1-3ff	1 Timothy 3:15; Acts 11:26	????????????????????
Supporting the proclamation of truth and engaging in acts of benevolence	Luke 8:1-3; 1 John 3:17 James 1:26-27 1 Tim. 5:16	Philippians 1:5-6; 4:15-17 1 Cor. 9:6-12; 2 Cor.11:8 1 Tim 5:9-10,16	????????????????????
Worshipping God	John 9:38; Acts 16:25; Acts 24:14	Acts 20:7 1 Cor. 11:17ff; 1 Cor. 14:15	????????????????????
Edifying those who have obeyed the gospel	Acts 20:17-32; 1 Cor. 10:23 Acts 15:36-40	2 Timothy 4:1-4 Ephesians 4:14-16 1 Cor. 14:12,26	????????????????????
Discipline	1 Timothy 6:3-5 2 Timothy 3:1-5	1 Corinthians 5:1-13 Romans 16:17-18	????????????????????

Innovators will you stop your innovations and restore unity to the body of Christ?