

# **The work of the church**

## *Part 2*



# What is the authorized work of the church?

1. The church is to sound forth the word of God  
*(Evangelism)*
2. The church is to strengthen its members in the word  
*(Edification)*
3. The church is to aid Christians who are in need  
*(Benevolence)*

# **Evangelism**

- **1 Thessalonians 1:8**
- **1 Timothy 3:15**
- **1 Corinthians 9:14**
- **Philippians 4:15-16**
- **2 Corinthians 11:7-9**

# The church strengthens its members in the word (Edification)

- One reason the church assembles for worship is to strengthen (edify) the members of a church - [1 Corinthians 14:26](#)
- The duty within the church is to build its members into the likeness of Christ - [Ephesians 4:11-13](#)
- Edification is not just making each other feel good. It is not entertainment. It is learning to be obedient to God - [Hebrews 5:8-9](#)
- It is accomplished through the word of God - This is why we have classes and teach lessons from God's word - [Acts 20:32](#)

# Edification

- We teach and admonish one another with our singing:  
*“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”* (Colossians 3:16)
- The church also administers corrective discipline when needed (1 Corinthians 5:4-5).

# The church is to aid Christians in need (Benevolence)

This benevolence was always limited to needy saints:

–*Acts 11:27-30*

–*Romans 15:25-26*

–*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*

–*2 Corinthians 8:1-4, 9:1*

–*1 Timothy 5:3-16*

# Limitations to the work of the local church

- The local church is not authorized to engage in whatever work it deems as good
- The local church is not to “hire out” its responsibilities (Eph. 4:11-16)
- There is a difference between what the local church can do and what individual Christians can do (Jas. 1:27; Gal. 6:10)

# We must abide within the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9)

- **Evangelism**
- **Edification**
- **Limited Benevolence**



- Church sponsoring arrangements
- Church funded recreation or social activities
- Church giving benevolence to non-Christians and human institutions

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# Obey the Gospel of Christ

- **Hear...** “Faith comes by hearing” (Rom. 10:17)
- **Believe...** “Believe on the Lord Jesus” (Acts 17:31)
- **Repent...** “Repent or perish” (Lk. 13:3)
- **Confess...** “Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus” (Rom. 10:9)
- **Be Baptized...** “Baptism now saves us” (1 Pet. 3:21)
- **Remain Faithful...** “He who endures to the end will be saved” (Matt. 10:22)