

IT IS THE LORD'S

# THE CHURCH – IT IS THE LORD’S

- Possession
  - Matthew 16:18
  - Acts 20:28
- Headship of the Lord
  - Ephesians 1:22-23
- Subjection to the head
  - Ephesians 5:22-24

# THE COLLECTION – IT IS THE LORD’S

- The principle of a collection goes back to the beginning
  - Acts 2:44-45
- Expounded upon
  - Acts 4:32-37
- Yours vs. the Lord’s – not the same
  - A distinction in control/authority – Acts 5:1-4
  - A distinction because the use of the collection is regulated – 1 Timothy 5:3-16
    - There is a distinction between your work and the church’s work

# THE COLLECTION – IF IT IS THE LORD’S, THEN...

- It is not our own prerogative to use in any way
  - Tradition? – no
  - Opinion? – no
  - Any “good thing”? – no
- It is important to us
  - Priority & zeal
- It is set apart
  - For what purpose is it given?
  - How should it then be used?

# THE COLLECTION – BECAUSE IT IS THE LORD’S, IT MUST BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE LORD AUTHORIZED

- What is the divinely-appointed collective work of the church?
- 1. The church has been given a spiritual mission to uphold and support the truth
  - 1 Timothy 3:15
  - Support men who preach and teach the truth
    - 1 Corinthians 9:11; 2 Corinthians 11:8; Philippians 4:15-16

# THE COLLECTION – BECAUSE IT IS THE LORD’S, IT MUST BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE LORD AUTHORIZED

- What is the divinely-appointed collective work of the church?
- 2. The church has been given a responsibility to edify itself
  - Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:11-16
    - The key component, the basis: the word of God
      - Acts 20:32
  - Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 14:3, 4, 5, 17, 26

# THE COLLECTION – BECAUSE IT IS THE LORD’S, IT MUST BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE LORD AUTHORIZED

- What is the divinely-appointed collective work of the church?
- 3. The church has been given a responsibility to relieve its own needy
  - Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35; 6:1-6; 11:27-30; Romans 15:25-31; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8:1-14; 2 Corinthians 9:1-14

## 1 TIMOTHY 5:16

# THE CHURCH SHOULD NOT BE CHARGED WITH:

- Rearing your children
  - Ephesians 6:4
- Social services for your family or the community
  - 1 Corinthians 11:22, 34
- Helping poor neighbors
  - Galatians 6:10
- Anything outside of the church's divinely appointed work
- There is a distinction between your money and the Lord's money



# THE COLLECTION – IT IS THE LORD’S

- Recognize the distinction between it and yours
- Recognize and be obedient to the regulation of its use
- Recognize its significance and make it a priority