



**WHAT ARE WE
DOING WITH
THE LORD'S
MONEY?**

- Questions persist regarding authority for church treasuries.
 - “**Arguments against a central church treasury include claims of a lack of biblical authorization for a general fund**, potential for **abuse and financial mismanagement**, creation of a divisive and controlling environment, the risk of members feeling excluded, and **the practice of creating unbiblical expenditures beyond what the Bible directs**. Some also argue that a central treasury can shift dependence from God to wealthy individuals and may foster a spirit of materialism within the church” (**Google AI Overview, Sept. 7, 2025**).
- Church treasuries are authorized (**Acts 4:34-35, 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 16:1-4**).
 - But churches should be transparent in how they handle finances (**2 Cor. 8:16-23**).
 - And churches are limited with what they can do with that money.



WHAT CAN WE DO WITH THE LORD'S MONEY?

Edify members (**1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11-16**).

- *Bible class materials, Bibles, etc.*

Anything related to the church services (**Heb. 10:24-26; Acts 20:7, 2:42-47**).

- *Church building, pews, song books, PA system, communion trays, etc.*

Evangelism (**1 Tim. 3:15**).

- *Church services, radio program, YouTube, church website, pamphlets, road sign, etc.*

Benevolence.

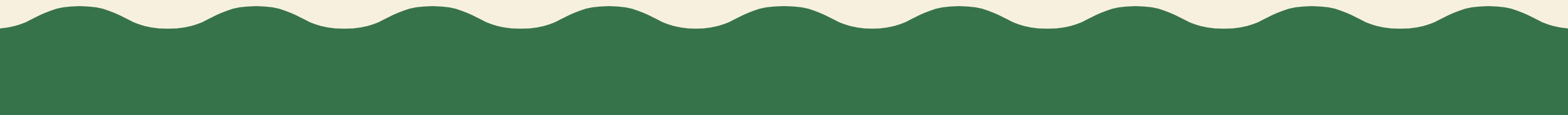
- Aiding saints (**Acts 11:27-30, 4:32-35; Rom. 15:26; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:1-4**).
 - *Sending food, paying medical bills, mortgage, etc.*
- Paying preachers (**1 Cor. 9:14**).

ARE WE PAYING PREACHERS AS WE SHOULD?

- Preachers deserve compensation (**1 Cor. 9:14**; see also **1 Tim. 5:17**).
 - Whether they do / don't accept pay is up to them (**1 Cor. 9:8-14**; **2 Cor. 11:7**).
- Churches are authorized to pay preachers who are not members of the local congregation (**2 Cor. 11:8-9**).
 - Such support should be direct and not funneled through a separate human institution overseeing the work or finances (**2 Cor. 11:8**; **Phil. 4:15-16**).
- Churches don't have to “go bankrupt” paying preachers (**2 Cor. 8:13**), but we do have a responsibility to pay them.

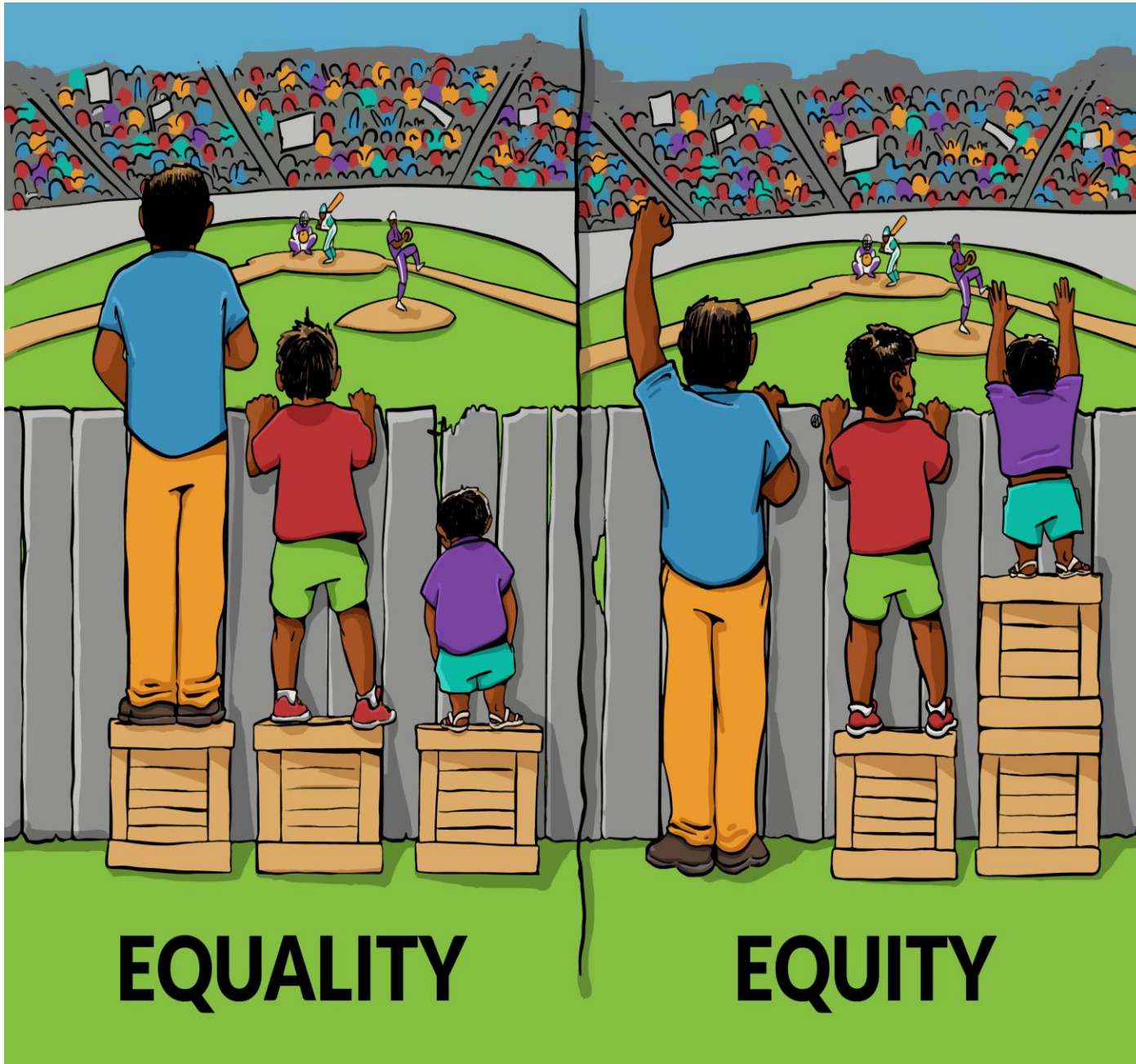
NOTE: Deacons can be a tremendous resource when it comes to managing church finances, searching out needy preachers, etc. (**Acts 6:1-4**).

NOTE: We must be careful who we financially support (**1 Tim. 5:22**).



WHY DILIGENTLY SEARCH FOR PREACHERS WHO NEED HELP?

- 1) We should want the gospel to continue being preached in their areas! (**Rom. 10:14-15**)
- 2) Helping the needy proves if our love is sincere (**2 Cor. 8:8, 24; 1 John 3:18**).
- 3) It will matter on the day of judgment (**Matt. 25:31-46**).
 - How we individually used our money will matter on the day of judgment (**James 2:14-17; etc.**).
 - Therefore, it is only logical that how we used our money as a church will also matter.
 - *If we are going to oppose institutionalism, we need to make sure we practice what we preach (**Matt. 7:1-5**) and we aren't just "burying the money" (**Matt. 25:18**).*
- 4) We produce a sweet-smelling aroma that satisfies God (**Phil. 4:10-18**).
 - We know of something that pleases God, so we should try to take advantage of these opportunities whenever we can (**2 Cor. 5:9; Luke 10:37**).
- 5) We should be striving for equity among brethren.



EQUITY AMONG BRETHREN

Equality

Everyone receives the exact same treatment, resources, etc.

Equity

Resources distributed differently, according to need, in pursuit of fairness.

Equity was strived for in **Acts 4:32-35** and **2 Cor. 8:13-14**.

*Don't let capitalism cause us to neglect or outright reject this responsibility! (**Acts 2:44-45**)*



⁹ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Pet. 4:9-10)

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