

Romans 12:13a

There are several things that God NEVER intended any world system or human construct to handle. One of those things are the redistribution or the distribution of possessions, and the care for others. This was and always should be the roll of the church to do. However, because the church didn't, there is now a dual system. We will divide that system and learn what God's system was. We are only going to look at the surface. Much more can be said.

- I. Let us first look at this from our position today. What do these words mean?
 - A. Distributing
 1. This has the idea of being a partaker in or to share with someone in something
 2. This fellowship comes about because of our fellowship with Christ
 - i. Jesus gave to us and therefore, based upon His example, we give to others.
 - ii. Our giving to one another is because of our shared blessing in the covenant of Jesus Christ.
 3. Therefore, this call is for the Saints to share in the needs, hurts and blessings of the other saints due to their own salvation that is part of the covenant.
 - B. Needs
 1. Notice, this is needs. Not wants
 2. Of course, in times such as this (as will be discussed) there is a sharp line of understanding between needs and wants.
 - C. Saints
 1. This is the final piece of the puzzle.
 2. It is NOT for everyone. It is specifically limited
 3. It is ONLY for those who have trusted in Jesus as their savior
 - i. Some may be wondering about helping unbelievers,
 - ii. Yes, this is allowed but by and large the bulk of the churches' support seems limited only to other believers. - Galatians 6:10¹ (We will not be dealing with how we help unbelievers today, as we are focused solely on the believer and saint)
- II. Now, let us see this in action. Are we bound by this idea today of distributing to the needs of the saints?
 - A. What do we see in the Scripture
 - i. We hear how Macedonia and Achaia sent aid to the church at Jerusalem – Romans 15:25-26
 - ii. We also find that Corinth and the church of Galatia are instructed to also give to help other brothers in Christ – 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
 - 1) We may be amazed to hear Macedonia was giving because they were not a wealthy church. In fact they gave even to their own hurt – 2 Corinthians 8:1-4
 - 2) We also hear how Corinth really got hold of this command and that just fires us up to also help others of the household of faith – 2 Corinthians 9:2 (C.F. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
 - iii. Do we grasp the movement this would take? Do we see the power this would have to really show the goodness of God?
 - B. What are the “rules” for this kind of giving that can bridge from the Scriptures to today?

1 Gal 6:10 NKJV - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

1. The giving is only for saints because only saints have been partakers (same word) of the grace and gospel of Jesus and spiritual things that God has in store – Romans 15:27
 2. It was also to be done simply (not showy and elaborately) – Romans 12:8²
 3. It was not forced or coerced, but willingly given as the individual decided – Acts 4:35 (C.F. Acts 5:3-4 [He lied by saying what he was giving was the total amount])
- C. There may be some who say, “Why should I help and what purpose does it serve?”
1. We should help because we are part of the covenant of Grace that God gave to those who put their faith in Him.
 2. To deny this is to deny the love of God that we say we have – 1 John 3:17
- III. What was the purpose
- A. First was to give aid to those who needed it
1. At this time, even today, by accepting Jesus, the individual and the family are ostracized, denied jobs and given no aid by anyone. Families consider them dead and they are disowned or shunned by all.
 2. It also helped to give believers who were hit by natural disasters the relief they need.
 - i. This has been documented before (A.D. 45) during the reign of Claudius Caesar
 - ii. There was a famine that was prophesied – Acts 11:27-28
 - iii. With this knowledge, the church mobilized – Acts 11:29-30
 - iv. Josephus gives us a little glimpse in story of Queen Helena, and her son Izates. Many say that Josephus is reporting these actual events from what was prophesied before in Acts.
 3. It allows us to show the love of God for other believers so they can see the body of Christ working together for the good of all – 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:1-16
- B. Second, it was to signify a few things
1. It would be a sign of who was and was not Jesus disciple – John 13:35
 2. It would be a sign of God’s provision for His own people (Example: VBS offering to help the Webb’s (\$817.37))
 3. It would be a Testament to God’s promise that He would always be there with them
 4. It would strengthen the covenant between the body even though some may not see the others.
- C. Third, it is to become a family (as we call ourselves) to others who have none.
1. This concept of family is because when believers accept Jesus, their earthly family will shun them
 2. The new family of believers become their family, friends and relatives.
 3. Again, our nation is not here yet but it is, I believe, coming. We need each other to fill in when we are shunned by old friends, family and neighbors. Are we there for each other?
- IV. One thing to note. Distribution, while we talked about it, does not have to be just physical
- A. While there is a place for distribution of the physical, we must not forget the care we can have for each other in the emotional, mental and Spiritual aspect as well.
- B. Let us start here in Calvary. Let us start building relationships with others that we may not know or know well.
- C. Let us share a kind word, a loving heart and a caring shoulder – 1 Thessalonians 5:11³

2 Wuest Expanded Translation – or he who exhorts, within the sphere of exhortation; the one who distributes of his earthly possessions, in the sphere of an unostentatious simplicity; the one who is placed in a position of authority, with intense eagerness and effort; the one who shows mercy, with a joyous abandon.

3 1Th 5:11 NKJV - Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.