

The Collection v2

For what purposes and by what method is a local church authorized to collect money?

Introduction

- In denominational groups, money is collected in a wide variety of ways and used for a wide variety of purposes
- But, are these methods of collection and works that are done authorized by the New Testament?
- Churches of Christ have divided over what authorized purposes the collection can fund

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Introduction

- Reason for such divisions is that all participate in collective actions
- If some believe these actions are sinful, then they cannot participate in consenting and contributing to them
- Lesson designed to remind us that we should follow New Testament authority on all matters including the collection

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Who should give to the collection?

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

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When is the collection to be taken?

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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What is the only way a local church may collect money?

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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To whom does the collection belong?

Act 5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,
Act 5:2 and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

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To whom does the collection belong?

Act 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?

Act 5:4 "While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

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For what purposes is the collected to be used?

- The New Testament teaches that the collection is to be used to support preachers and elders who are teaching the gospel
- These funds are to be sent directly to those supported, not through a third party organization or another local church
- The Scriptures also teach the collection is to be used to help needy saints, those who for valid reasons cannot help themselves

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For what purposes is the collected to be used?

- First, a local church must meet the needs of its own members
- Then as they have opportunities, they can send to other local churches whose members are in need
- These funds are always given directly to the needy members not through a third party organization or another local church that is not in need

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The collection is to be used for supporting elders who work hard in teaching

1Ti 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

1Ti 5:18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

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The collection is to be used supporting preachers working locally or in another place

1Co 9:13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the *food* of the temple, *and* those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar?

1Co 9:14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

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The collection is to be used supporting preachers working locally or in another place

2Co 11:8 I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;

2Co 11:9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

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The collection is to be used to help needy saints locally or in another place

Act 4:34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales

Act 4:35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

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The collection is to be used to help needy saints locally or in another place

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

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The collection is to be used to help needy saints locally or in another place

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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The collection is to be used to help needy saints locally or in another place

1Co 16:3 When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

1Co 16:4 and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

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Collection used also for expedients

- An expedient is a judgment of what is profitable or of advantage in helping a local church comply with God's commands
- Example – because we are commanded to assemble to worship, the local church has freedom to provide a place of worship
- Other examples would be songbooks and Lord's supper containers
- Expedients must not go beyond commands, examples or necessary conclusions

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With what attitudes should we contribute?

2Co 8:3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord,

2Co 8:4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

2Co 8:5 and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

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With what attitudes should we contribute?

2Co 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

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With what attitudes should we contribute?

2Co 9:6 Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2Co 9:7 Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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How much should each member contribute?

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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How much should each member contribute?

2Co 8:11 But now finish doing it also, so that just as *there was* the readiness to desire it, so *there may be* also the completion of it by your ability.

2Co 8:12 For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what *a person* has, not according to what he does not have.

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Who is responsible for overseeing the collection?

Act 14:23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

1Pe 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

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Who is responsible for overseeing the collection?

1Ti 2:11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

1Ti 2:12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

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What attitude should be displayed in handling the collection?

2Co 8:18 We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in *the things of* the gospel *has spread* through all the churches;
2Co 8:19 and not only *this*, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and *to show* our readiness,

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What attitude should be displayed in handling the collection?

2Co 8:20 taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift;

2Co 8:21 for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

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What is the only time when one church is authorized to give to another local church?

Rom 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

Rom 15:27 Yes, they were pleased *to do so*, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

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