

Bible Authority: The Social Gospel – Part 6

By Michael Wright

Consider the so-called Social Gospel

Let's think about the work of the church:

- A. **GENERALLY**, God's collected, assembled people, or His local church, has a work.
- B. **SPECIFICALLY**, Bible revelation says there are three works the local church is to be involved in:
- Preach to the Lost ([1Thess.1:8](#); [Acts 13:1-5](#))
 - Preach to the saved or edify the saved ([Eph.4:16](#); [Acts 20:7](#))
 - Provide benevolence to christians (saints) who are in need ([1Tim.5:16](#); [Acts 2:44-45](#); [Acts 4:32-35](#); [Acts 6:1-6](#); [Acts 11:27-30](#); [Rom.15:25-31](#); [1Cor.16:1-3](#); [2Cor.8:1-4](#); [13-14](#); [2Cor.9:1](#); [13-14](#)). Please note that individual christians do have benevolent responsibilities, as those opportunities arise ([Gal.6:10](#); [James 1:27](#)) – however the church is not tasked with the responsibility to feed the globe.
- C. To **AID** in preaching,
- The local church might rent or build a building for which to assemble for worship ([Heb.10:25](#); [Acts 20:8](#));
 - Or the local church might meet under a shade tree to assemble for worship.
 - A building is an **AID** or **EXPEDIENCE** to carry out the work of preaching or the obligation to assemble for worship,
 - A building is **NOT** mandatory.

As noted by gospel preacher Mike Miller, some additional **AIDS** might be,

- Light's for which to see ([Acts 20:8](#));
 - The local church might provide a place to sit ([Acts 20:9](#)), etc.
 - If something is lawful or Biblical ([1Cor.6:12](#)) **AND** if it edify's or builds up , then it may be used as an expediency or an **AID** in preaching the gospel.
- D. But on the contrary, if the local church:
- Were to provide a gymnasium to play, such would be social entertainment, rather than spiritual worship ([Jn.4:23-24](#)), which would be something in **ADDITION** to what the Bible authorizes.
 - The church does not come together to play, but to worship and worship is spiritual in nature, not physical. A gymnasium is not an **AID** or expedience for any of the three works indicated above.
 - If the local church were to provide a kitchen or a so-called fellowship hall to eat, such would be focusing on feeding the physical man and not the spiritual man ([1Cor.11:20-22](#)), which would be something in **ADDITION** to what the Bible authorizes. A kitchen is not an **AID** for any of the three works indicated above. Fellowship in the Bible is not eating and drinking but joint, spiritual participation. Where christians gather for worship, would be a true fellowship hall.

Notice [1Cor.11:20-22](#):

- "When ye **COME TOGETHER** therefore into **ONE PLACE**, this is **NOT** to **EAT** the Lord's supper. For in **EATING** every one taketh before other his own **SUPPER**: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not **HOUSES** to **EAT** and to **DRINK** in? or **DESPISE** ye the church of God, and **SHAME** them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not" ([1Cor.11:20-22](#)).
- Somebody says, "oh, but this is talking about abusing the Lord's Supper!" Yes the context is indeed talking about abusing the Lord's Supper, but the context has a two-fold message, as the Word of God does in many instances.

- The purpose of the church is **NOT** to come together to eat a common, physical meal:
 - “not to eat the Lord's supper”
 - “have ye not houses to eat and to drink in?”
 - “OR despise ye the church of God?”
 - “AND shame them that have not?”
 - To eat in the place of worship, is to despise the church of God.

The Bible says that

- “**TRUE worshippers** shall worship the Father **IN** spirit and **IN** truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **MUST worship** him **IN** spirit and **IN** truth” ([Jn.4:23-24](#)).
- This is spiritual, **NOT** physical.

Do you recall the miraculous event where Jesus feed the 5000 to prove He was the Son of God?

They returned again wanting their bellies filled. But...

- “Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, **NOT** because ye saw the miracles, **BUT** because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour **NOT** for the meat which perisheth, **BUT** for that meat which **ENDURETH** unto **EVERLASTING life**, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed” ([Jn.6:26-27](#)).

Jesus did **NOT** feed them again, because they sought Him for the wrong reason and later the Bible says,

- “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him” ([Jn.6:66](#)). ...How sad.

When will people realize that

- the kingdom of God (or the church – [Matt.16:18-19](#)) is **NOT** meat and drink; ([Rom.14:17](#))!?

E. Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preach to the Lost (1Thess.1:8) • Preach to the saved or edify the saved (Eph.4:16) • Provide benevolence to needy christians (1Tim.5:16; Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-35; Acts 6:1-6; Acts 11:27-30; Rom.15:25-31; 1Cor.16:1-3; 2Cor.8:1-4; 13-14; 2Cor.9:1; 13-14) 	shade tree, building, lights, seats, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnasium • Kitchen • College, etc