

Is the Church Authorized to
Provide Financial Help for
Medical Care?

Is the Church Authorized to Provide Medical Care?

- The sick need medical care
- The church met the needs of the saints
- The needs the church provided are not limited by specific commands or examples
- Therefore medical care is one of the needs the church is authorized to provide for saints

The Sick Need Medical Care

- Medical care is a need of the body – Luke 5:31

Luke 5:31 (NASB95)

And Jesus answered and said to them, “It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.

Luke 9:11 (NASB95)

But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and welcoming them, He began speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing.

Matthew 25:36–40 (NASB95)

36 ... I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.... **40** ... 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

Luke 10:34–37 (NASB95)

and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** “On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’ ... **37** Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”

James 2:15–17 (ESV)

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

The Sick Need Medical Care

- Medical care is a need of the body – Luke 5:31
- Jesus provided for medical needs – Luke 9:11
- He instructed his disciples to do the same – Matthew 25:36-41; Luke 10:34-37
- Failure to do so when able is an indication of dead faith – James 2:15-17

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- The sick need medical care
- The church met the needs of the saints

Acts 4:34–35 (NASB95)

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

1 Corinthians 16:1–3 (NASB95)

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. **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. **3** When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

The Purpose of the Gift

2 Corinthians 8:13–14 — For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality— at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality;

2 Corinthians 9:12 — For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God

Following the Approved Examples...

Does a brother or sister have a need that they and their family cannot meet?

If so, we should distribute “to each as any has need” so that our abundance will “supply for their need” and our ministry of service will “fully supply the needs of the saints” and overflow “through many thanksgivings to God.”

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Acts 11:27–30 (NASB95)

Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. **28** One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius. **29** And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. **30** And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

1 Timothy 5:3–8 (NASB95)

Honor widows who are widows indeed; ... **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.

Acts 6:1–2 (NASB95)

Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*. **2** So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

James 5:14 (NASB95)

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

What about Paul's Teaching on Contentment?

1 Timothy 6:7–8 — For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

What about Paul's Teaching on Contentment?

Philippians 4:11–13 — Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Specific Needs and their Authorization

- Food – approved example (Acts 6:1-2), necessary inference (Acts 4:34-35; 2 Cor. 9:12)
- Clothing - necessary inference (Acts 4:34-35; 2 Cor. 9:12)
- Shelter - necessary inference (Acts 4:34-35; 2 Cor. 9:12)
- Medical care – command (James 5:14), necessary inference (Acts 4:34-35; 2 Cor. 9:12)

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If “those who are sick need a physician” and if the collection made on the first day of the week is for the purpose of “fully supplying the needs of the saints”, then the church is authorized to use the contribution to pay for medical needs of saints