“Let Not The Church Be Charged”
1 Tim. 5:16

Introduction:
A. “Let the church do it” — popular answer to community and family needs.
   1. Assumes that churches have funds and counselors for every purpose.
   2. Media encourages this idea by the publicity given to such “church work.”
B. Christians have responsibilities in several realms: Domestic, Economic, Civil, Civic, and Spiritual.
   1. Works in each realm both individually and through the institutions/organizations in each realm.
   2. The institution/organization in the spiritual realm is the local church.
C. Local church specializes in public worship and Bible teaching with limited role in benevolence.
   1. It can teach what Bible says about business dealings without becoming a BBB or employment agency.
   2. It can teach what Bible says about family relationships without becoming a family life center.
   3. It can teach what Bible says about government without becoming a political action organization.
   4. It can teach what Bible says to young women about being homemakers without teaching homemaking.
   5. It can teach what Bible says about marriage without becoming a marriage broker or counseling service.
   6. It can teach what Bible says about child training without becoming either a home or school.
D. Many areas where we need to meet individual responsibilities and say “Let not the church be burdened.”

Discussion:
I. Let Not The Church Be Charged With Your Family’s Needs. (1 Tim. 5:16).
   A. Christians must provide for own families. (1 Tim. 5:8).
   B. Children have responsibility to support parents. (Matt. 15:4-6).

II. Let Not The Church Be Charged with Your Poor Neighbors.
   A. N. T. churches cared only for saints. (Acts 6:1-6; Acts 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-28; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9).
   B. N. T. Christians (individually) cared for all according ability and opportunity.
      1. To all men. (Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27).

III. Let Not The Church Be Charged With Social Services for Your Family and Community.
   A. Where is the authority for church to provide entertainment, social, and recreational activities?
   B. Such are “at home” activities. (cf. 1 Cor. 11:22,34).

IV. Let Not The Church Be Charged with Rearing Your Children.
   A. Church can provide Bible teaching for people of all ages and relationships. (1 Tim. 3:15; Phil. 4:15,16).
      1. Gospel is for every creature — including your child. (Mk. 16:15,16).
      2. Preaching includes rebuking, reproving, exhorting — including your child. (2 Tim. 4:1-4; Eph. 6:1).
      3. Church edifies and disciplines its members — including your child who is Christian.
   B. Parents, not the church, responsible for rearing children (Eph. 6:4).
      1. Involves physical, mental, psychological, social, economic and spiritual development.
      2. Involves means of developing in all of these areas.
         a. Instruction in all these areas – a good education.
         b. Discipline and behavioral training–even how to behave in church.
         c. Environment–proper associations.
      3. May use church (in areas where church may function) school or camp as supplement- still parents job.

Conclusion:
A. Let Christians accept their individual responsibilities and let not church be burdened.
   1. Do not expect church’s personnel to do your job for you.
   2. Some oppose church “youth-director,” then criticize church’s preachers/teachers for not acting like one.
B. Let Christians not blame church for their failures as individuals.