



Ashland Church of Christ 2006

# Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God



“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

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## May We Help You? — Servitude The Christian’s Responsibility to the World

Text: Ephesians 4:11-13

**Key Text:** *Ephesians 4:11-13, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”*

Introduction:

- 1) The work of the church can be divided into two parts: Work for those in the church and work for those outside the church.
- 2) Benevolence is for both.

### I. What is benevolence?

- A. To do good, an act of kindness, to show mercy, giving (Webster).
- B. Some would call this helping the poor.
- C. ‘Poor’ would include anyone who is not able to help themselves.
- D. In short, benevolence is doing any act of kindness for someone who is not able to help themselves.

E. How is benevolence practiced?

1. Giving of money.
2. Giving of time.
3. Any effort.

II. Why do we practice benevolence?

- A. Because of good ole' common sense.
- B. Because of the example of the Old Testament (Ruth 2:2-3).
- C. Because of the example of Christ (Luke 10:25-37).
- D. Because of the example of the first-century church (Acts 6:1-7).
- E. Because of the New Testament command (Romans 12:13).

III. Who do we provide benevolence for?

- A. The poor (Romans 12:13, Galatians 6:10, 1Timothy 5:5).
- B. The orphans and widows (James 1:27).
- C. It is not the lazy, well-off, or those who can find it by other means.
- D. Members of the church (Acts 4:36-37, 1Timothy 5:3-16).
- E. The unconverted (Galatians 6:10).

IV. When do we practice benevolence?

- A. "As we have opportunity" — Galatians 6:10.
- B. When we see someone, anyone, in need.
- C. We need to help personally and congregationally.
- D. This is not an option (James 2:14-20, 1John 3:17).
- E. Anytime, anywhere, and by any number of means that we are able to practice benevolence.

Conclusion:

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