

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 September 1, 2024

Socialism vs. Biblical Sharing

by Doy Moyer

Socialism is not the same as social justice or sharing out of good will. Socialism is forced by those in power upon a people whether they like it or not. The motivation and attitude of the people do not really matter; they simply must comply. Such is a far cry from what we find in Scripture. Biblically, social justice has little to do with government control, handouts, programs, or forced redistribution. Rather, social justice is about taking personal responsibility, loving neighbor as self, caring for the poor and needy, the orphan and widow, because the people know that is right (Read Amos). Pure and undefiled religion is personal and individual first (James 1:26-27). Social justice is accomplished when individuals learn to care about each other as fellow human beings made in God's image. Socialism, on the other hand, is not social justice; it is tyranny. It does not foster love, but an atmosphere of resentment, thievery, and rebellion.

Contact Information

	Mailing Address	P.O. Box 680872 Prattville, AL 36067
	Phone Numbers	(334) 868-0801
	E-Mail Address Web Address	prattmont@gmail.com prattmontchurchofchrist.org

When Christians shared their possessions in the first century, they were not being socialists or communists (cf. Acts 2, 11). No government was forcing them to share. No officials were taking possessions by force from them in order to redistribute. Rather, they were sharing with each other out of love and respect. They took it upon themselves, in treating each other as they each wanted to be treated, to help care for each other when a need arose. That is the way it is supposed to work. Caring for each other because people love each other creates the kind of society that will always succeed. Love is always the more powerful motivation. Love is the motivation of the child of God.

“The Prescribed Way”

by Bryan Gibson

David wanted to bring the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem, something his fellow-Israelites agreed was the right thing to do (1 Chronicles 13:1-4). And so they went to Kirjath Jearim, where the ark had been for twenty years (1 Samuel 7:2), and began transporting it to Jerusalem. During this trip, “David and all Israel played music before God with all their might” (1 Chronicles 13:8). So far, so good.

It wasn’t long, though, before they ran into some serious trouble. “And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God” (1 Chronicles 13:9-10). The law of Moses was clear—no one could “touch any holy things, lest they

die” (Numbers 4:15). It turns out, though, that Uzzah’s error was not the only error they made. They put the wrong people in charge of transporting the ark, and they were transporting it the wrong way. The Levites were supposed to carry it on their shoulders (instead of a cart), using poles inserted through rings on the sides of the ark (Exodus 25:12-15; Numbers 4:1-15; 1 Chronicles 15:15). Their failure is summarized in 1 Chronicles 15:13: “...the LORD our God broke out against us, because **we did not consult Him about the proper order.**” The NIV says, “**We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way.**” They should have gone to the law to find out exactly how they were supposed to do it.

The lesson is crystal clear. God desires we do things His way, that we consult Him about the “proper order,” or “prescribed way.” *Claiming* something is done “in His name,” or, “to His glory,” doesn’t make it so. God is a stickler for doing things according to His will (Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50).

On the question, “What must I do to be saved?” look to God, to the New Testament, for the “proper order,” or “prescribed way.” The full answer won’t be found in one “silver bullet” passage. John 3:16 is truth, but not all the truth. Consider everything God says on the subject, and you’ve got your answer.

On the worship, work, and organization of the local church, same principle. Please don’t make the mistake of saying, “there is no prescribed way.” We’ve written on these subjects in previous bulletins, demonstrating from the New Testament that there is a proper order. The Israelites learned their lesson. They eventually did move the ark back to Jerusalem, and this time they did it God’s way (1 Chronicles 15:14-16:1). Here’s hoping we learn the same lesson—before it’s too late!