

AUTHORIZED RELIGIOUS ACTION

INTRODUCTION

A. **Colossians 3:17**

All that we say or do religiously must be done in the name of the Lord.

1. **Acts 19:11-17**

Clearly, calling on His name is not a mere magical incantation like “Abracadabra.” Instead, it means that the Lord must authorize the action.

2. **2nd John 9**

We must be careful not to go too far.

B. **Matthew 18:15-17**

1. As exemplified in this passage, religious action takes place on three levels:
 - a. The individual level, as a Christian (15).
 - b. The conjunctive level, as a plurality of Christians, but not the church (16).
 - c. The collective level, as a church (17).
2. Our study is a simple examination of those things we ought to do in religion, and the ways in which they can be accomplished.

I. PRAYER

A. **Individually** (A Christian)

1. **Matthew 6:5-6**

B. **Conjunctively** (A few Christians)

1. **Acts 12:12**

C. **Collectively** (A church)

1. **Acts 2:42**

2. **Acts 12:5**

3. **1st Corinthians 14:15-16**

D. **Alternatively** (A college, a camp, a retreat, a foundation, a society, etc.)
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II. SONG

A. **Individually** (A Christian)

1. **James 5:13**

B. **Conjunctively** (A few Christians)

1. **Acts 16:25**

C. **Collectively** (A church)

1. **Colossians 3:16**

2. **Hebrews 2:12**

3. **1st Corinthians 14:15**

D. **Alternatively** (A college, a camp, a retreat, a foundation, a society, etc.)
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III. EVANGELISM

A. **Individually** (A Christian)

1. **Acts 8:4-13**

2. **Acts 8:26-40**

B. **Conjunctively** (A few Christians)

1. **Acts 16:30-32**

2. **Acts 18:26**

C. **Collectively** (A church)

1. **1st Thessalonians 1:8**

2. **Ephesians 3:10**

D. **Alternatively** (A college, a camp, a retreat, a foundation, a society, etc.)
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IV. EXHORTATION & EDIFICATION

A. **Individually** (A Christian)

1. **Philippians 4:8**
2. **1st Timothy 4:15**

B. **Conjunctively** (A few Christians)

1. **Acts 20:20**
2. **Hebrews 3:12-13**

C. **Collectively** (A church)

1. **Acts 11:26**
2. **Acts 13:1-3**
3. **Acts 15:32**
4. **Hebrews 10:24-25**
5. **1st Corinthians 4:17**

D. **Alternatively** (A college, a camp, a retreat, a foundation, a society, etc.)

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V. DISCIPLINE

A. **Individually** (A Christian)

1. **Matthew 18:15**
2. **Galatians 6:1**
3. **James 5:19-20**
4. **1st Timothy 6:5**

B. **Conjunctively** (A few Christians)

1. **2nd John 10-11**
2. **Matthew 18:16**

C. **Collectively** (A church)

1. **Matthew 18:17**
2. **1st Corinthians 5:1-5**

D. **Alternatively** (A college, a camp, a retreat, a foundation, a society, etc.)

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VI. MINISTRY TO THE SAINTS

A. **Individually** (A Christian)

1. **1st John 3:17**

B. **Conjunctively** (A few Christians)

1. **1st Timothy 5:8, 16**

C. **Collectively** (A church)

1. **1st Corinthians 16:1-2**

2. **Acts 4:32-37**

3. **Acts 11:29-30**

D. **Alternatively** (A college, a camp, a retreat, a foundation, a society, etc.)

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VII. PREACHER'S WAGES

A. **Individually** (A Christian)

1. **Luke 8:1-3**

B. **Conjunctively** (A few Christians)

1. **Luke 10:4-7**

C. **Collectively** (A church)

1. **Philippians 4:15-16**

2. **2nd Corinthians 11:8-9**

D. **Alternatively** (A college, a camp, a retreat, a foundation, a society, etc.)

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VIII. LORD'S SUPPER

A. **Individually** (A Christian)

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B. **Conjunctively** (A few Christians)

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C. Collectively (A church)

1. **Acts 20:7**
2. **1st Corinthians 11:17-21**

D. Alternatively (A college, camp, retreat, foundation, society, etc.)

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CONCLUSION

A. In Christ, we may act:

1. Individually, as Christians.
2. Conjunctively, with other Christians.
3. Collectively, as the church.

B. The church is the only means whereby we may act collectively to perform our religious duties.

1. **Ephesians 4:11-16**

The body must build itself up. We are to encourage each other's growth in the church.

2. **Ephesians 3:20-21**

God is to be glorified in the church. The church is the setting in which we worship Him together.

3. **Ephesians 3:10-11; 1st Timothy 3:15**

God's eternal purpose includes making known His manifold wisdom through the church, which is the foundation of the truth.

C. Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23; Romans 12:15

There is one head – Christ, one body – His church, and the members are Christians individually. Where do organizations other than the church fit into this arrangement?

D. Acts 20:28

The Lord shed His blood to purchase the church, not a college, camp, foundation, ladies' retreat, or missionary society.

E. Matthew 15:13

1. If God did not establish a certain religious entity, He will most certainly overthrow it.
2. There is no authority whatsoever to establish other organizations or institutions to do religious work, such as:
 - a. Colleges, with their mandatory chapel attendance, Bible departments, preacher training courses, and annual lectureships.
 - b. Camps, with daily Bible classes and twice daily devotionals.
 - c. Women's retreats, with singing, praying, and Bible studies.
 - d. Privately funded foundations, with their annual lectureships.