

We will conclude our series on dis-fellowship tonight. You might wonder what else there is to cover. We talked about what it is and how it is done. We explored why it is important: to save the soul that has drifted and to protect the lump of holiness from the danger of leaven. Dan Howe even chimed in with teaching last week on being patient and conversational, using wisdom and gathering the facts.

I probably would have stopped at that, except for a specific question. Three people have asked about this particular thing, as it pertains to withdrawal, and I want us to explore and apply it tonight. "Is Dis-Fellowship "Individual Action" or "Church Action"? I'm not sure if this looks like an important questions to you, but I hope you will see tonight that is of critical value and really leads us to a very important overarching study on the difference between these two things. Let's start there.

**Individual Action** – This is the personal Christian duty and responsibilities that each one of us have as Christians, regardless of whether no one else is doing them or if everyone else is doing them.  
-- Love Your Wife / Pray without Ceasing / Walk in Love – "I" must do this, even if alone.

**Local Church Action** – This is the united work of our Local church. It might be single action or decision that represents us, of which we are all participating as members here.

Examples of the Difference:

IA - Giving to the Lord's Work (I Corinthians 16:1-2) – each one of you... regardless of others

CA - Using the Fund for the Lord's Work (I Corinthians 16:3; Acts 5:34-35) – done as one

IA - Supporting a Family Widow (I Tim. 5:3-4, 16) – individual responsibility

CA - Supporting a Widow Indeed (I Tim. 5:3, 16) – church acts, elders act, we are naturally a part.

**Individual Action** may be done "concertedly." That is, together with others, maybe in unison, but still be individual Christian responsibility. Like giving on the first day of the week.

**Local Church Action** – this is done as a "collective" where in you personally may not be doing anything at the moment, but you are by virtue of the acting of the elders on your behalf.

IA - Singing Praises to God (Eph. 5:19) – while done together, in concert, it is MY responsibility

CA - Having/Funding a Singing – Elders do this "on our behalf" – "we" are having a singing

**Most critically – we mustn't let a thing slide from one category to the other a) out of convenience or b) to absolve ourselves of individual responsibility.**

*"Okay, I don't like to give of my means – I like to keep my money – and that's okay because "we do good things with the Lord's money" and we give for good work. Our church is giving therefore I am giving"*

*"I don't really want to take care of my mom. She's alone now but the church can fund and handle decisions. So I'll shift that to the eldership. Then it will be me and others helping her which is good.*

*"I'm not a singer. I don't have a good voice and I don't want to do it. But we are a singing church and we have songs and leaders and singings, so I'm sure that's the most important thing."*

It weakens a thing when we move it from where it belongs (in me) to where it's convenient (from us)

It jeopardizes our souls to place the burden of obedience on the church when it belongs on each of us.

Perhaps the most unfortunate of all is when we AREN'T SURE where something goes, and maybe even argue about that for 60 years or so, and instead of both sides being active to make sure a thing gets done, it falls into that dividing line chasm in between and is rarely if ever even mentioned again!!!

Example: **General Benevolence**