

**Offers money to
those in need?**

**Establishes secular
widows and orphans
homes?**

Is your church benevolent?

**Sets up soup
kitchens to feed
the poor?**

**Establishes “cause”
foundations to raise
money?**

Is your church benevolent?

- **Benevolent:**
 - “expressing goodwill or kindly feelings; desiring to help others, charitable; intended for benefits rather than profit”
 - **Synonyms:** “good, kind, humane, generous, philanthropic”
 - **Antonyms:** “cruel”

Is your church benevolent?

- **James 1:26-27** – Does this apply to churches?
 - **Vs. 19-25** – Context is dealing with individuals
 - **James 2:2** still individual context
 - **Episkeptomai** means “to consider, inspect, care about”
 - Very specific categories of people
 - Spirit of command is to consider others first, esp. those who are less fortunate

Is your church benevolent?

- **“Whatever an individual can do, a church can do.”**
 - **Not so. I Tim. 5:16**
 - **We do find authority for the church to support widows**
 - **Very specific qualifications**
 - **Only in an extreme case could it be necessary to have a “widow’s home”**

Is your church benevolent?

- **The New Testament example does not include a single example of a church physically helping non-Christians!**
 - **Christians can be supported – Acts 2, 6, etc**
 - **Not limited to local congregation – I Cor. 16:1-2**
 - **Preachers and elders can be supported – I Cor. 9:14, I Tim. 5:17**
 - **Supporting preachers not limited to local congregation – Phil. 4:10-18**

**Offers money to
those in need?**

**Establishes secular
widows and orphans
homes?**

**Is your church benevolent?
The church is limited...**

**Sets up soup
kitchens to feed
the poor?**

**Establishes “cause”
foundations to raise
money?**

Are you benevolent?

- **Benevolent:**
 - “expressing goodwill or kindly feelings; desiring to help others, charitable; intended for benefits rather than profit”
 - **Synonyms:** “good, kind, humane, generous, philanthropic”
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**Offers help to
those in need?**

**Considers those who
are less fortunate?**

**Are you benevolent?
James 2:14-17; Gal. 6:6-10**

**Donates unused
and unwanted
items?**

**Donates to charities,
increase contribution
at church?**