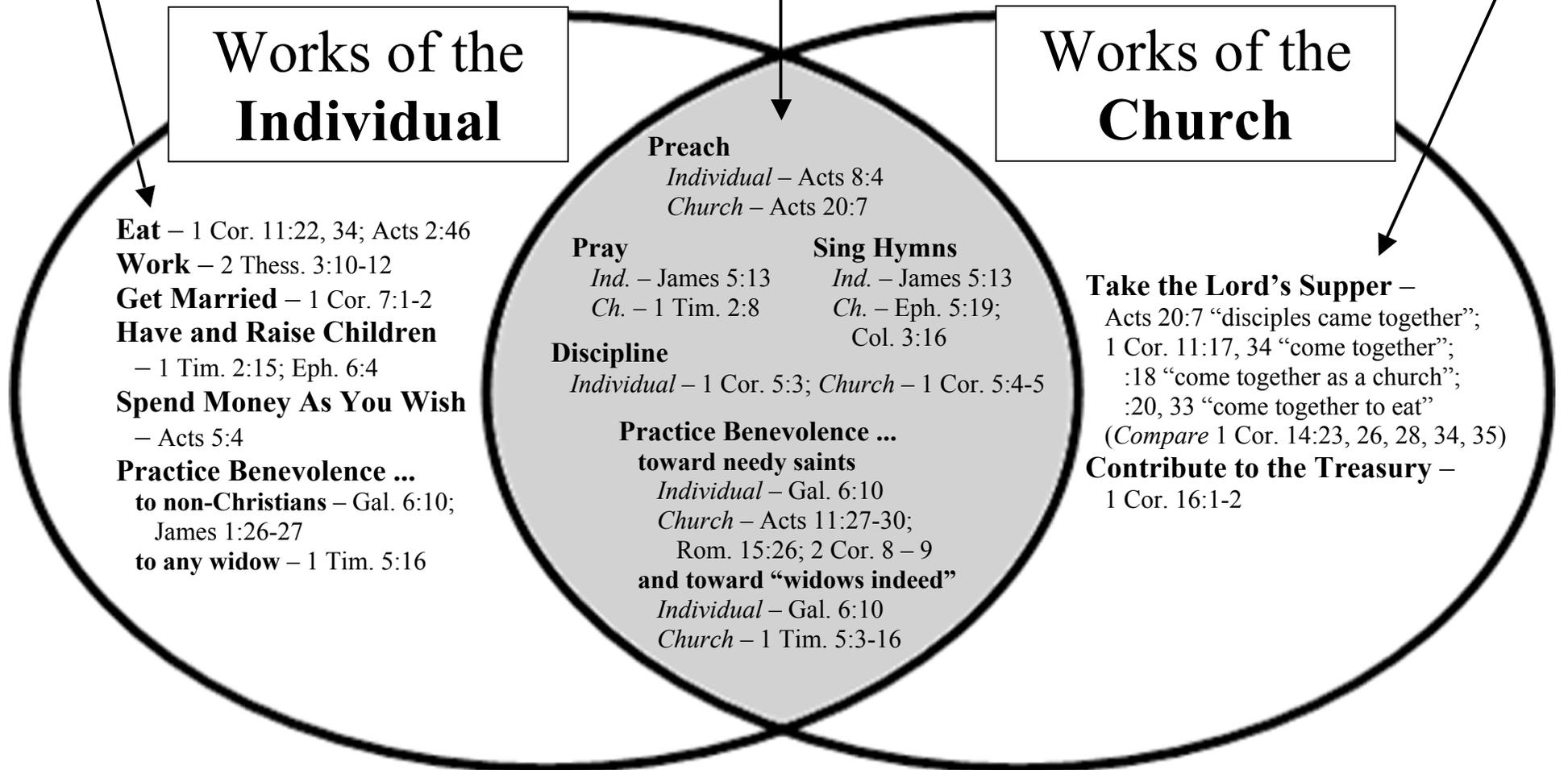


# Two Circles

Certain actions pertain **exclusively to the individual** (fall into one circle), and no passage authorizes the church to do them. Other actions pertain **exclusively to the church** (belong in another circle), and no Bible passage authorizes the individual to do them. (In many cases in the acts listed below, other passages can be cited, but the ones that appear here are enough to establish the distinction.) The Bible authorizes **both the individual and the church to do certain spiritual activities**, so the two circles overlap. When we imagine that there is only one circle (that is, that the individual or the home has a right to do all of the works of the church), we err, having left the Bible pattern.



**Two passages prove that the church CANNOT do everything the individual does.** They relate to supporting widows and eating together:  
**1 Tim. 5:16** (“Let not the church be burdened.”) **1 Cor. 11:22-34** (“Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God?...  
<sup>33</sup> ... When you come together to eat, wait for one another. <sup>34</sup> But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment.”)