

# **Differences Between “Liberal” and “Conservative” Churches of Christ**

# Differences Between “Liberal” and “Conservative” Churches of Christ

- **Liberal**: Support human institutions such as missionary societies, orphan homes, hospitals, and colleges from the church treasury, and they justify doing so, by taking the position that it accomplishes a good work, and they will often take Galatians 6:10 out of its context to justify this practice.
- **Conservative**: Support no human institutions, but rather support preachers in need by sending funds directly from the local church to the preacher who is in need of help (Philippians 4:15-16). Likewise, regarding benevolent work, conservative churches of Christ follow the pattern of the New Testament churches, and only contribute to the needs of Christians. (Acts 11:29; Romans 12:13; 2 Cor. 8:4)

# Differences Between “Liberal” and “Conservative” Churches of Christ

- **Liberal**: Raise funds for the work of the church through sponsoring special dinners, raffles, rummage sales, car washes etc. and they justify doing so by saying the money collected by these events is used to accomplish good, and this is not specifically forbidden in the New Testament.
- **Conservative**: Finance the work of the church only by the free-will offerings that are contributed by its members upon the first day of the week. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

# Differences Between “Liberal” and “Conservative” Churches of Christ

- **Liberal**: Accept the use of instrumental music in worship, and they justify this by claiming that it enhances the quality of worship, and that it is not specifically forbidden in the New Testament.
- **Conservative**: Do not use mechanical instruments in worship, but only engage in singing in their worship to God. (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)

# Differences Between “Liberal” and “Conservative” Churches of Christ

- **Liberal**: Have women preachers, and they justify this by claiming that our society and customs have changed over time, and women therefore now have assumed a more visible authoritative role in our society.
- **Conservative**: Have no women preachers, and do not allow women to exercise authority over the men in the church. (1 Corinthians 11:3, 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:12)

# Differences Between “Liberal” and “Conservative” Churches of Christ

- **Liberal**: Emphasize the “social gospel” by using church funds in their attempt to draw people to Christ through food, recreation, schools, and fellowship halls, and they justify these practices as being acceptable by contending that they facilitate Christians socializing with each other, and they serve as a good purpose in attracting people to the church who might not otherwise be.
- **Conservative**: Do not support, or engage in the “social gospel” to draw people to Christ, but only seek to draw people to Christ through the gospel of Christ, realizing that our purpose is to help people get to heaven, rather than to provide for their social and recreational needs. (John 6:45; Romans 1:16, 14:17; 1 Corinthians 11:20-22, 34)

# God's Plan of Salvation

- **Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)**
- **Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)**
- **Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)**
- **Confess Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10)**
- **Be baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27-29)**
- **Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)**