

vision and care over their own members, warning the unruly, comforting, exhorting, and even reproofing (by those appointed by the church) those who require such dealing, and finally to expel out of her communion unworthy members, who neglect to reform, after the instituted means for reclaiming them prove fruitless. Matt. 18 : 15, 18 ; 1 Cor. 5 : 5, 7 ; 1 Thess. 5 : 14 ; 2 Thess. 3 : 6. 3rd, The churches have authority to judge of the qualifications and elect (or choose) their own office-bearers, Acts 6 : 3, 6. And I respectfully ask, why not ordain them also, for it is easier to ordain than judge of the necessary qualifications. 4th, When any difference arises between members of the same church, respecting worldly matters, which cannot be adjusted by the parties at variance, the church has authority to appoint fit and proper persons, to examine into, and judge between the parties at variance, to prevent expensive lawsuits, which would disgrace the christian name. 5th, The church has authority to collect money from her own members, to defray the necessary expense of religion, and supply the wants of the poor or destitute persons, and to furnish support to those proclaiming the truth to the unconverted, or any other charitable or religious purpose calling for support, such as the undertaking in which the Bible Union is engaged, or any sudden calamity falling on any locality, Acts 11 ; 27, 2 Cor. 8 : 2, 16, Phil. 2 : 25, chap. 4 ; 15, 18. In the collection of money care must be taken that no person is oppressed, or compelled to give beyond their own free will, although as a general rule equality should be observed, that is, every one to give according to his ability. 6th, When any thing is to be done abroad, beyond the limits of the church, which cannot be attended to by the ordinary office-bearers of the church, (these being stationary in the church) the churches in such cases have authority to choose fit and proper persons to go on such errands, and transact such business as the case may require, including the choosing of fit and proper persons to proclaim the truth to the unconverted, or assist weak churches needing help. Persons thus sent may be and are properly called, "the Messengers of the churches," (but if the churches had no authority they could have no Messengers, being destitute of authority to appoint such.) Acts 15 : 22, 28, 1st Cor. 16 : 3, 2nd Cor. 8 : 19, 23, Phil. 2 : 23.

In the performance of all we have named above, the churches have sufficient directions how to exercise their authority, in the constitution of the kingdom. But there are many other things which churches may