

8. **What About Expediency?** Expediency has to do with the *fitness* or *suitability* of anything. Some things are out of the question – period! (1 Cor 6:12) “*All things are _____ unto me, but all things _____.*” Paul went on to say: “*I will not be brought _____ of any.*” He meant that he would take no chances. Other factors might rule out the suitability of having, or doing, certain things that weren’t personally sinful.
9. **More On Expediency** (1 Cor 10:23) “*All things are _____ for me, but all things _____.*” Many things are not intrinsically sinful but there is no real merit in having or doing them. They don’t edify (ie: build up). Is it expedient to get involved with things that “*edify not*”? _____ What should be our policy regarding non-sinful things that have no value? _____
10. **Each Individual Is Ultimately Responsible For His/Her Own Self** (Gal 6:5) “*For _____ shall _____ his own _____.*” (Rom 14:13) “*So then _____ of us shall give _____ of _____ to God.*” There are things for which every individual is responsible. No second party can do these things for that individual; it is between them and God.
11. **Each Local Church Is Responsible For Its Own Conduct And Performance** Each individual congregation (ie: local church) is autonomous. That means it is self-governing under Christ. The scriptural makeup is found in Paul’s salutation to the Phillipians (1:1) when he wrote “*to all the _____ in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the _____ and _____.*” These three categories illustrate the order God has set in the conduct, fellowship, and work of the local church.
12. **Each Individual & Local Church Is Autonomous Under Christ** Paul stated (1 Cor 11:3): “*The _____ of every man _____; and the _____ of the woman is _____; and the _____ of Christ _____.*” That’s the Holy Spirit’s order. We cannot change it. We are free to make individual choices so long as they are in accord with this order. Even though the individual and the local church are autonomous, that autonomy must operate within the boundaries stated in the (above) scripture. It’s simple: We are “*_____ indeed*” (Jn 8:36) but that liberty exists only under the parameters of obedience to Christ.
13. **Autonomy Means Self-Rule** Individual Christians and local churches must rule *themselves*. This means they must do what they deem to be best (policy) and right (lawful under Christ) regardless of what others may do, or wish to impose on them. The Individual Case: (Ex 23:2) “*Thou _____ a multitude to do evil.*” The Local Church Case: Here *the silence of the scriptures* predominates. Never in the NT do we find authority for one local church to dictate to another local church, or to take punitive action against them.
14. **What If One Local Church Is Actually Practicing Error?** This has, does, and will happen. Just as one individual has a duty to interact with other (reachable) individuals, so should one local church attempt to interact with another (reachable) church. The Rule: (Heb 12:23) God is “*the _____ of all.*” (Rom 12:19) “*_____ is mine; I will _____, saith the _____.*” God is praised if such efforts to correct error and influence soundness are successful. If not, it is outside the authority of one individual, or one local church, to do more than (Rom 16:17) “*mark*” and “*_____ them.*”
15. **Is It A Sin To Make Policy Into Law?** Definitely! I may not like or approve what another individual or local congregation may do but if it doesn’t violate Christ’s law it is their business. To interfere is legalistic. (Mt 23:15) “*Ye compass _____ and _____ to make one _____, and when he _____, ye make him twofold more the _____ than yourselves.*” Jesus said these scribes and Pharisees were children of _____. Was this good? _____
16. **May We Differ On Matters Of Policy And Still Please God?** Paul understood the power of “culture” over people. (1 Cor 9:22) “*I am made _____ to _____, that I might by _____ save some.*” We need to adopt his attitude. He also stated (Phil 1:15): “*Some indeed preach _____ even of envy and strife; and some also of _____ will*” and added (V18), “*What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in _____, or in _____, Christ _____; and _____, yea, and will rejoice.*”