

# 1. Joint or collective responsibility

## A collective

The Word of God shows us the Church in different images, one of which is:

- The body (1 Cor 12:27; Rom 12:5)
  - Unity : all members are one (1 Cor 10: 17)
  - Gifts: for collective usefulness (1Cor 12:7; Rom 12:6; 1 Pe 4:10)
  - Joint responsibility:... that the members might have the same concern one for another (1Cor12:25b)

## 2. Accountability

- A debt
  - Love (Rom 13:8)

It is the law of Christ (Gal 6:2)

Its active ingredient: bearing one another's burdens.

### ❖ Some characteristics of love :

- Love rejoices with the truth (1 Cor 13:6)
- It speaks truth every one with his neighbour (Eph 4:25)
- Light (1Pe 2:10; Eph 5:13; 1 John 1: 6-7)

### ❖ Implications :

- Give account of what you do (Luke 16:2)
- Establish a chain of regular information : have people like Tychicus and Onesimus (Col 4:7-9)
- Report (Acts 14:27; 15:4)
  - Conditions of credibility of a report :
    1. Endorsed by two or three witnesses  
(2 Cor 13: 1 → Deut 19:15 ← John 8:15)
    2. Work in a committee (2 Cor 8:18-20)
      - Advantages of work in a committee:
        - a. Protection
          - From temptations and fall
          - From suspicions and accusations
          - From discouragement
          - From giving up
        - b. Preservation of the testimony

We work from the idea that many who have a calling and are of good will fall in temptation and in all sorts of traps from the devil through lack of support from others. This leads to loss of ministry or at the least less effective ministry.

In fact, more than 90% of Christians have good motivation to serve. It is therefore necessary to put in place a system to accompany them, support them with checks and balances to build a refuge against that which seduces, corrupts, misleads and discourages.

As for the others, who are determined to do what is bad and succeed in it, the Lord knows, He Who alone searches the heart and the inner-being. It is difficult, if not impossible, to help them. It is necessary to discover what they do and put them aside if possible.

## In practice:

Choices to make:

- To whom is money sent? Why to me? (tell the story of Marian in the beginning of her work in Congo)
- Does trust permit me to skip setting up a system of checks and balances? This is part of the joint responsibility! (pharmacy story)

## Management of money and valuables:



A risky crossing

## System of transparency in money management as crash barrier

### Whose responsibility?

- As much responsibility on the side of those who give as on the side of those who receive

Diminishing risk



# Support those who are of good will

## Temptation

- Exterior pressure to steal is very high when people live in poverty. Saying: « I don't steal, I'm a Christian » is difficult
- Exterior checks through a system of transparency diminishes temptation, through the possibility to resist exterior pressure by saying: « the theft will be discovered and I'll lose my job. »

## Checking = support



## Conclusion

- Management committee
- Transparency in gifts
- The choice of the person to send gifts to
- Responsibility around accountability is found on both sides

**FOR THE GLORY OF  
THE LORD**