

WHAT MAKES THE **CHURCHES OF CHRIST** DIFFERENT FROM THE **DENOMINATIONAL WORLD**?

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BELIEVES ONLY THE CLERGY CAN
UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

BIBLE INTERPRETED BY THE OFFICE

THE 33,000+ PROTESTANT CHURCHES BELIEVE THE BIBLE
CAN BE UNDERSTOOD ONLY BY A SPIRIT-FILLED PERSON AND
GOD'S INTERVENTION UPON OUR HEARTS.

BIBLE INTERPRETED BY OUR FEELINGS

THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST BELIEVE IT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD
BY ANYONE.

BIBLE INTERPRETED BY **NORMAL RULES** OF LANGUAGE

**“COME NOW,
LET US
REASON
TOGETHER,”
SAYS THE
LORD
(ISAIAH 1:18)**

But, with respect to the issue of "**silence**", the two passages written by the apostle Paul [Eph 5:18-19, Col 3:16 –sb] clearly **say nothing at all** about the use of instruments. No statement is made either for or against them. This is also true for the remainder of the NT writings. Instruments of music in the corporate worship of believers is neither commanded nor prohibited. There is only **SILENCE**.

-Al Maxey (Reflections, Feb. 8, 2003)

A GENERIC COMMAND INCLUDES ALL OF ITS SPECIFICS



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A SPECIFIC COMMAND EXCLUDES ALL OTHER SPECIFICS

A GENERIC COMMAND INCLUDES ALL OF ITS SPECIFICS

WOOD

~~Cork~~

~~Pine~~

Gopher

And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.” (Gen 6:13–14)

Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. (Ge 6:22)

A SPECIFIC COMMAND EXCLUDES ALL OTHER SPECIFICS

A GENERIC COMMAND INCLUDES ALL OF ITS SPECIFICS

FIRE

~~From Camp~~

From Altar

~~Matches~~

¹ Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, **which He had not commanded them.** ² And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. ³ Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord has said: ‘Among those who are near Me I will be sanctified, and **before all the people I will be glorified.**’ ” And Aaron held his peace. (Lev 10:1–3)

TAKE NOTE:

HOW WE TREAT SPECIFIC AUTHORITY IS ALSO AN ISSUE OF WHAT WE DO WHEN GOD IS SILENT, AND IT IS AN ISSUE OF GOD’S GLORY

A SPECIFIC COMMAND EXCLUDES ALL OTHER SPECIFICS

A GENERIC COMMAND INCLUDES ALL OF ITS SPECIFICS

CARRY THE ARK

Levites

~~Strong men~~

~~Oxen cart~~

~~Four lift~~

And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. ⁷ And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there **because of his error**, and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸ **And David was angry** because the Lord had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. ⁹ And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he said, “How can the ark of the Lord come to me?” (2 Sam 6:6–9)

GOOD INTENTIONS ≠ RIGHTEOUSNESS

“Because you [the Levites] did not carry it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not seek Him **according to the rule.**”
¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. ¹⁵ And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, **as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord.** (1 Chr 15:13–15)

A SPECIFIC COMMAND EXCLUDES ALL OTHER SPECIFICS

A GENERIC COMMAND INCLUDES ALL OF ITS SPECIFICS

BAPTISM

~~For
Repentance~~

For
Salvation

~~For Church
Membership~~

~~To Clean the
Body~~

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ² And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “**Into John’s baptism.**” ⁴ And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” ⁵ **On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** (Acts 19:1–5)

**THESE WERE FAITHFUL MEN, WORKING
OFF OF WHAT KNOWLEDGE THEY HAD..
BUT THEY NEEDED “THE WORD MORE
ACCURATELY”**

A SPECIFIC COMMAND EXCLUDES ALL OTHER SPECIFICS

WHEN THE SCRIPTURES ARE SILENT...

WE MAY USE WISDOM, BUT THAT WISDOM CANNOT ALTER SUBJECT, ACTION, OR PURPOSE

CARRY THE ARK

Levites
David changed **WHO** carried the ark in 2 Sam. 6

FOR **WHAT**

FIRE

Nadab & Abihu changed **WHAT** fire in Lev. 10:1

BAPTISM

Paul required baptism because the **WHY** was different in Acts 19

WHEN THE SCRIPTURES ARE SILENT...

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SUBJECT

David
changed
WHO
carried
the ark
in
2 Sam. 6

ACTION

Nadab &
Abihu
changed
WHAT
fire in
Lev. 10:1

PURPOSE

Paul
required
baptism
because
the **WHY**
was
different
in
Acts 19

THESE
THREE THINGS
MUST
GOVERN ALL
BEHAVIOR OF
THE
INDIVIDUAL
CHRISTIAN &
LOCAL
CONGREGATION
IN MATTERS
OF BIBLICAL
SILENCE

WHEN THE SCRIPTURES ARE SILENT...

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SUBJECT

CARING
FOR
ORPHANS

Is it an
individual
Christian
command or
a work of
the church?
(1 Tim 5:16)

ACTION

FELLOWSHIP
HALLS

Is socializing
a work **the**
church is
called to?
Is that what
'fellowship'
means?
(Php 1:5)

PURPOSE

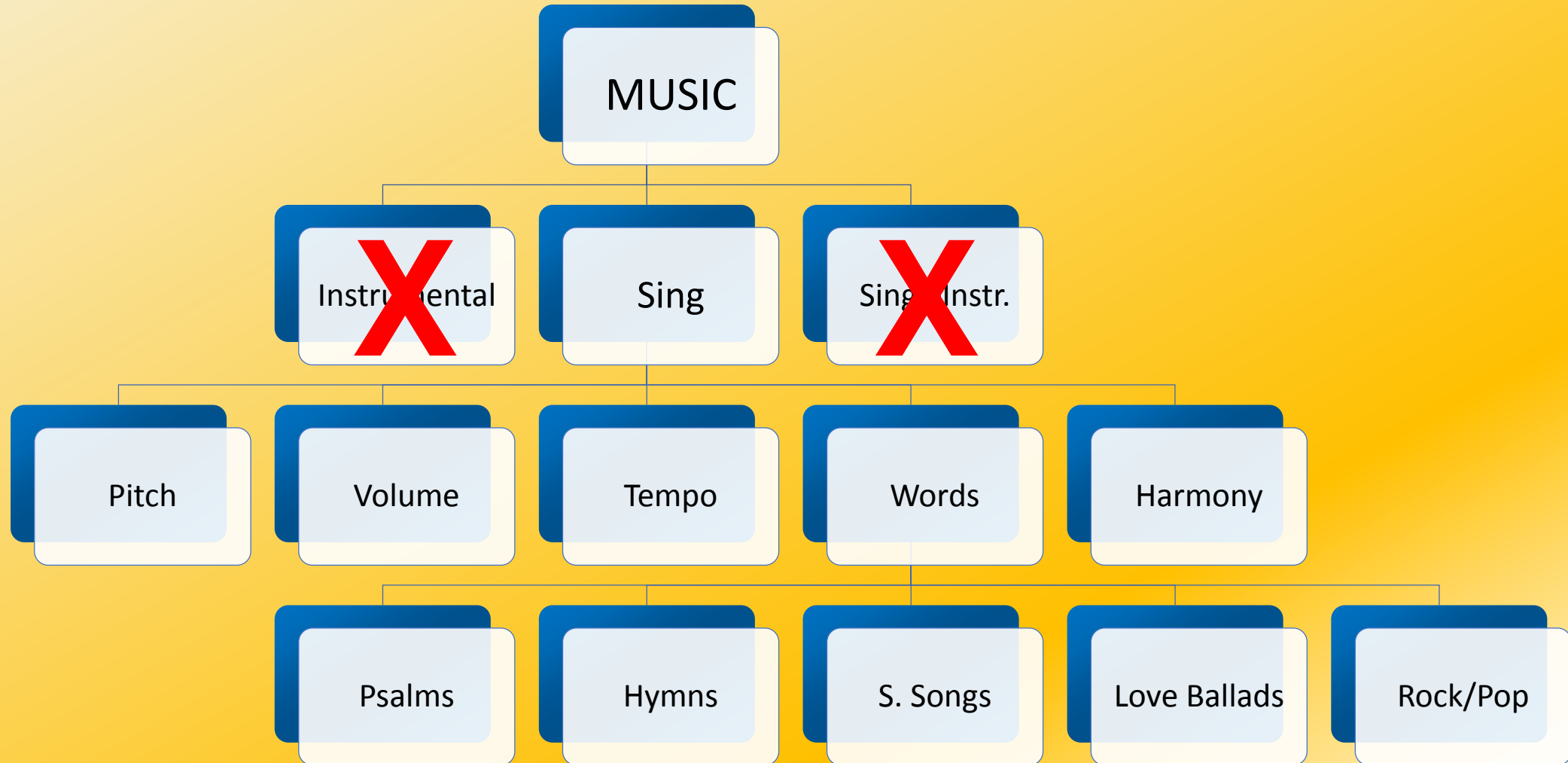
FOOD
PANTRIES

Is the local
church's
purpose to
care for the
physical
needs of the
lost?
(1 Cor 16:1)

THESE
THREE THINGS
MUST
GOVERN ALL
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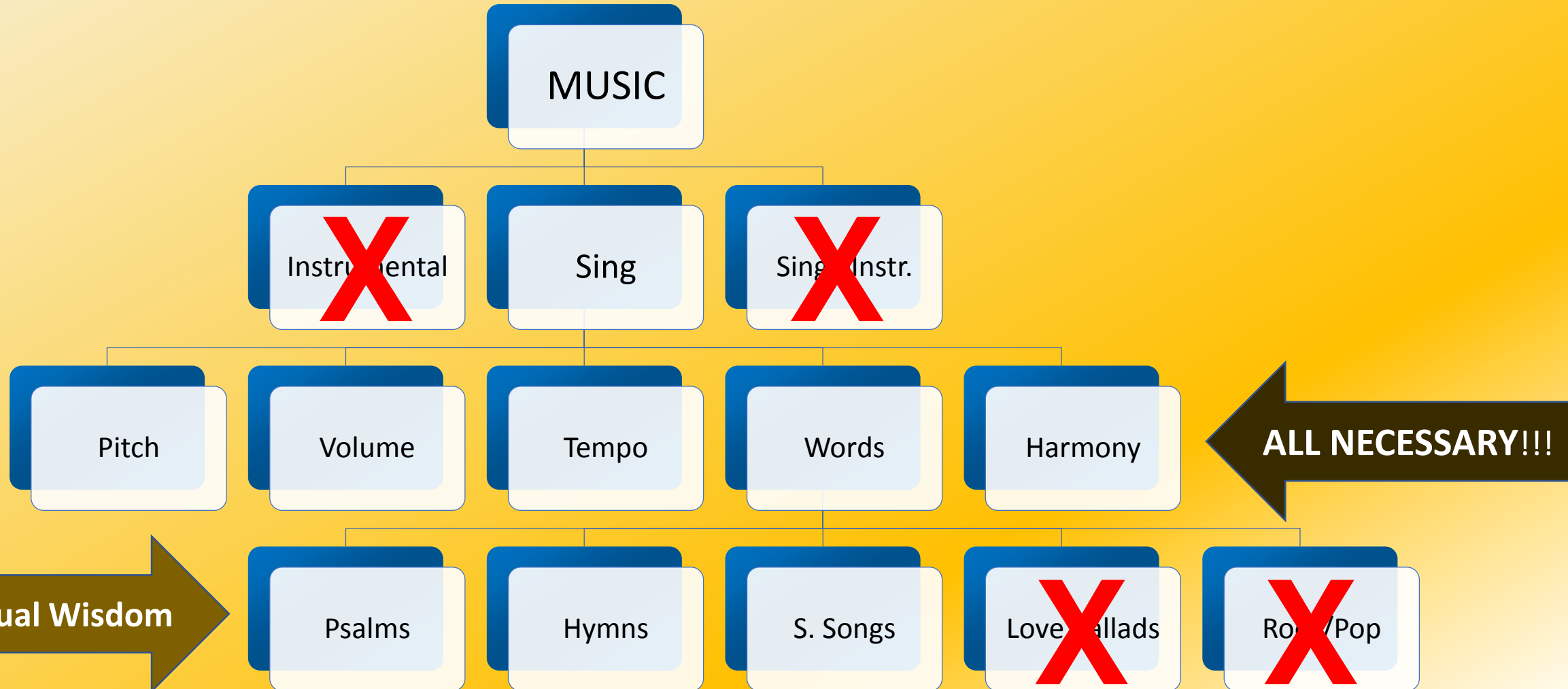
UNLESS IT IS NECESSARY, IT ISN'T INCLUDED

WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO FULFILL A COMMAND IS INHERENT WITHIN THAT COMMAND



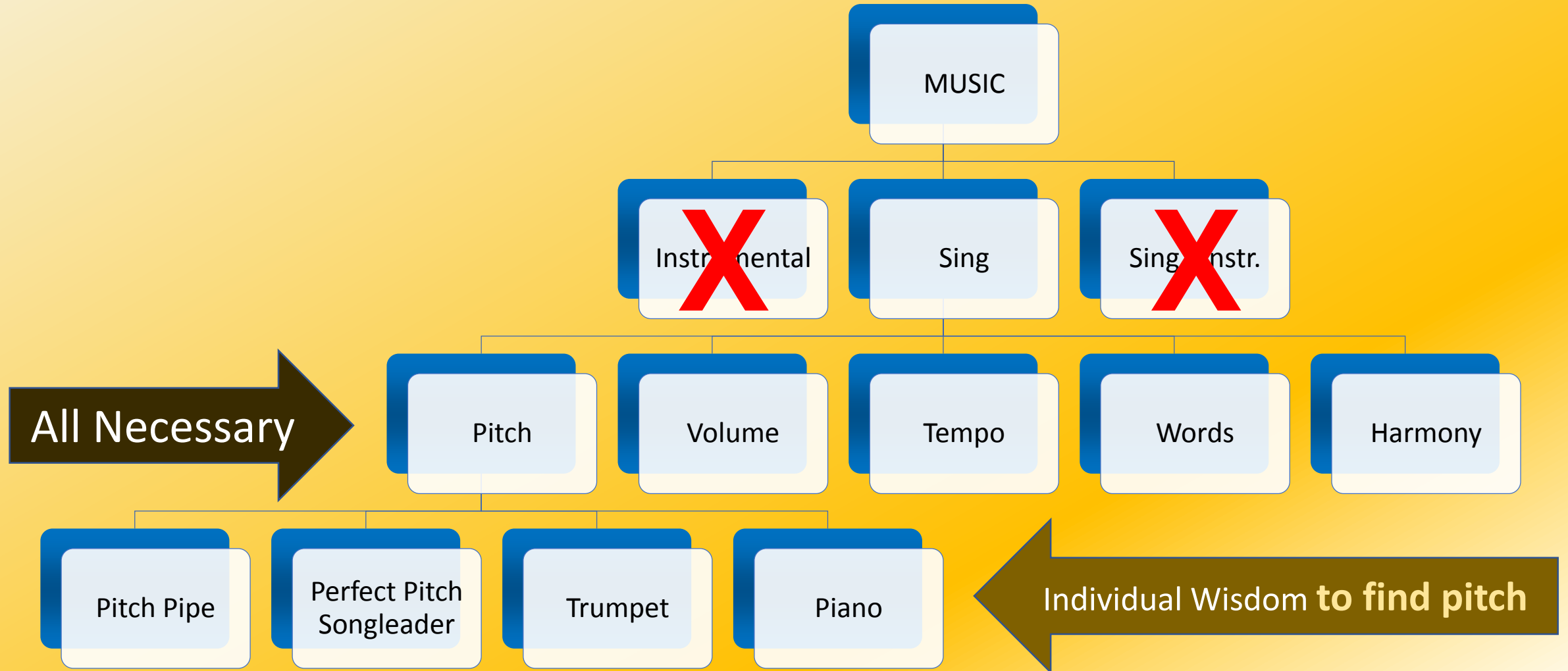
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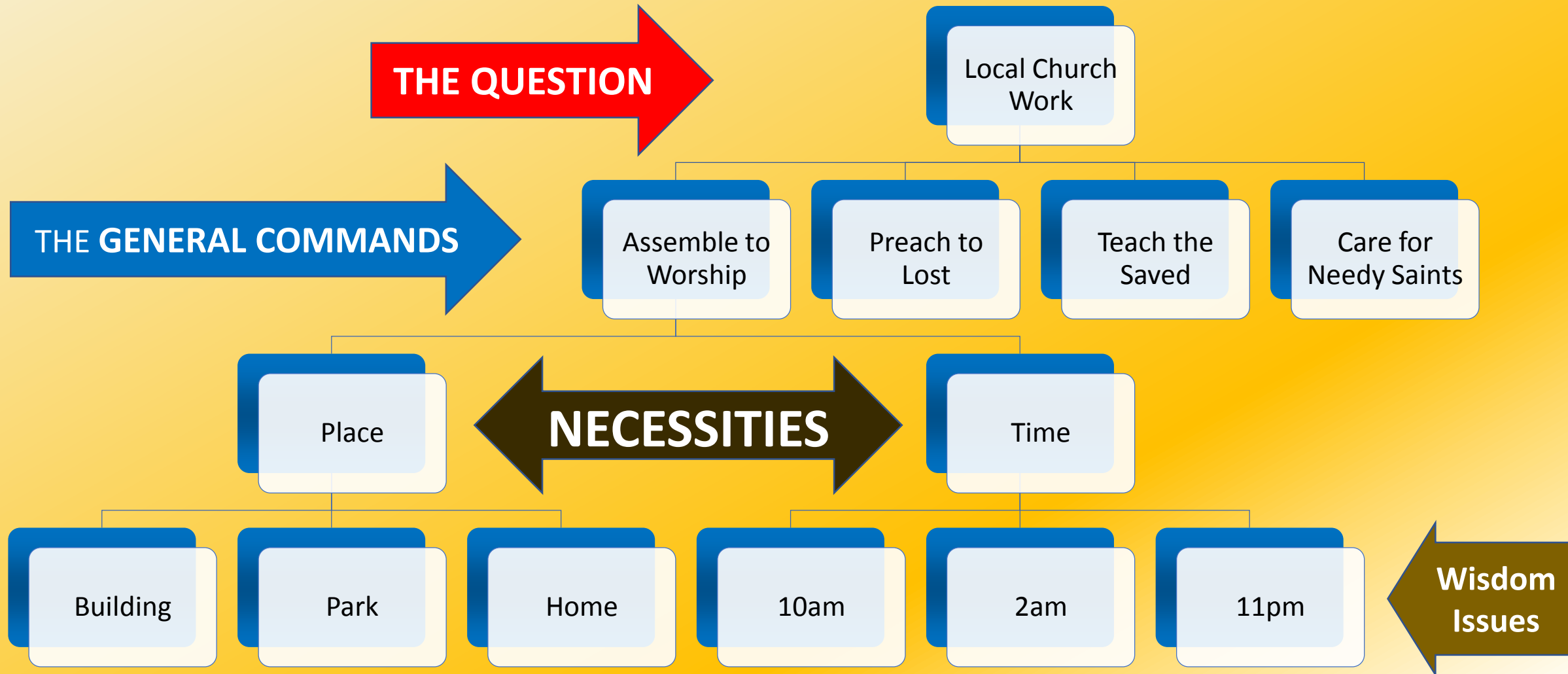
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The question the non-institutional brethren struggle with:

Where do Fellowship Halls, Orphan Homes,
Food Pantries, Social Programs, or Church-
Funded Institutions fit within this **Bible**
framework without altering **WHO** is doing it,
HOW we are commanded to do it, and **WHY** we
are doing it?