

Justin Martyr – c. 165 AD

We who once took most pleasure in the means of increasing our wealth and property now bring what we have into a common fund and share with everyone in need; we who hated and killed one another and would not associate with men of different tribes because of their differences now live together.”

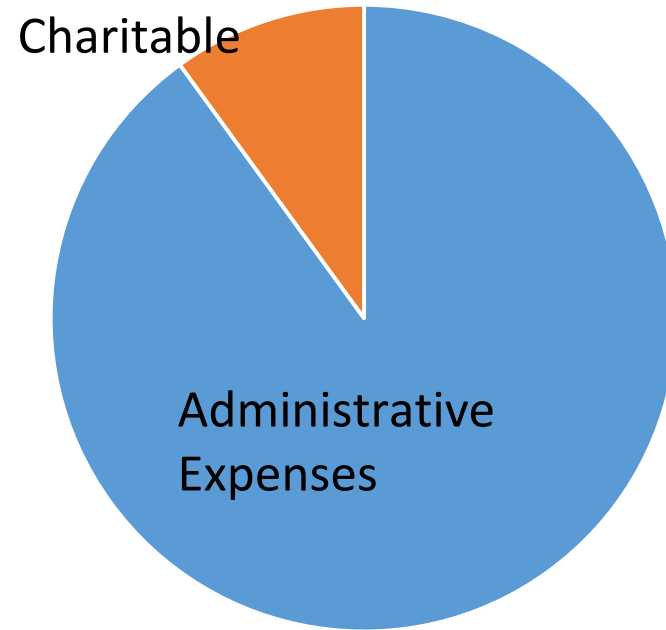
Clement of Alexandria – c. 195 AD

- *God brought our race into communion by first imparting what was his own, when he gave his own word common to all, and made all things for all. All things therefore are common, and not for the rich to appropriate an undue share. That expression, therefore, “possess and possess in abundance, why then should I not enjoy?” is suitable neither to the man, nor to society. But more worthy of love is that: ‘I have, why should I not give to those who need?’ For such a one, one who fulfills the command, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself’ is perfect. For this is the true luxury, the treasured wealth. But that which is squandered on foolish lusts is to be reckoned waste, not expenditure.*

Clement of Alexandria – c. 195 AD

- *For God has given to us, I know well, the liberty of use, but only so far necessary; and he has determined that the use should be common. And it is monstrous for one to live in luxury, while many are in want. How much more glorious is it to do good to many, than to live sumptuously! How much wiser to spend money on human beings, than on jewels and gold! How much more useful to acquire decorous friends, than lifeless ornaments!*

Evaluating a Charity



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