

(question) A very vital thing to remember in all this is that even in a corporation in which a man hires employees and tells them what to do, you can't run it simply on a matter of commands. That I order you to do this and you lift your finger the way I say, and that is what we are doing. If the corporation is effective at all, there is cooperation, there is mutual interest, ~~there is~~ their initiative is developed.

Now if that is true in a corporation, ~~where~~ where one is higher than others, it is a hundred times more true in the church. Even in the dictatorial system of the church, the ~~pro~~ prelatical system where the minister gives the laws, even in that system, the minister has to win the willing cooperation of the people. He cannot control in the sense of a dictator. It doesn't work. They would rise up, they would be resistant.

(question) The Apostle Paul gives us, in his pastoral epistles, the requirements for bishops. Bishop and elder mean the ~~same~~ same, in the N.T. And he gives us the type of man one ~~should~~ should be. Well, we set a man apart to be an elder, or a bishop. We set him apart for that when he is elected to the office. Well, then, in the present system, he is a ruling elder for a certain term of years, and then if he is not ~~re-elected~~ re-elected he has been set apart. He ~~belongs~~ belongs to that, he had the office upon him, and he can be appointed for special functions. But he doesn't act as a ruling elder of the congregation. And he ~~doesn't~~ doesn't ~~need~~ need to be set apart again, for it, he merely needs to be installed. That, of course, has already been brought out in this form of govt.

(question) ~~This~~ This again, like everything else in govt., it doesn't work itself. It has to be worked, and it is a system for men to work. And if the group of elders try to do everything in the church, and when ~~anybody~~ anybody else shows any initiative they slap him down, the result will be exactly ~~the~~ the same as if the minister was trying to ~~dox~~ dox everything and slapping everybody down. But, if you have wise elders, they will be encouraging people to show their initiative and develop ways of serving the Lord and stimulating them, and they will be watching out constantly for new material.