

~~xxxxxxx~~ of letting it be easy for the danger to develop later on. And possibly people will ~~x~~ make a mistake in their election, or there is a little carelessness that comes. And that is why, if your eyes are open to these matters, you can often prepare for the future and prevent something very serious.

Well, now, this is the fundamental problem, then, the directing the activities of the particular congregation. Not as important as number 1, but very important. <sup>a</sup>nd we have these three ~~xxxxxxx~~ methods. And ~~x~~ as we noticed, the congregational extreme very easily goes over into the prolatical extreme, or into a system where you have a little clique that is behind the ~~xx~~ scenes and that is ~~xx~~ running everything, and that know how to present things to the congregational meeting, so that what they say is done, but nobody knows why it is done or how it is done. Because the group that is running things is a group that is sort of behind the ~~xxxx~~ scenes. Well, it is much better to have the group that runs things be out in the open, visible to everybody, understood who they are, subject to re-election, so that the people make a judgment on whether the way they are conducting things is a good way or not.

And so the pres. system of ~~xxxx~~ running a particular congregation, whether you call them presbyters, elders, what you call them, deacons, whether you call them an official board, whatever you call them. The system has tremendous advantages in this, and is very ~~xx~~ much worth your thinking about. Now, the question was asked about the authority of the ~~xxxx~~ minister over it. I have known of churches in which a minister has gotten ~~xxxxxxx~~ absolute control over the church and the elders became a group who just ~~x~~ said yes yes to everything he said, and then a minister who would go off on some tangent and they would have difficulty, and when ~~they~~ he would leave the church, or when some would leave and a new church would be formed, they had the idea now, the trouble was the minister had too much authority. Now, the elders are going to run it, and the minister is their hired servant. And I have known ministers who have gone inot a situation like that, and they have been the hired servant for what the elders tell him to do, and they said, you do this, and you do that, and you