.....(11) That, I think, is absolutely clear in the N.T. That is stressed in the N.T. And I believe that the Lord did it in order to , He knew that we would go far in the other direction, we do automatically. And He stressed that the leadership and control should rest ultimately in the group, rather than in the individual. But the group in whom it rests is not the congregation as a whole.

Here we have the two extremes. There is in the N.T. not the slightest evidence of one man in control of the church, nor is there the slightest evidence in the various churches formed, in the N.T. church, of a situation in which all had equal influence in making vital decisions. There is no stress in either direction. It is a group, selected by the church, and ordained by the apostles, who are directing the work in every place where we have N.T. evidence. Now, we have found, in the course of Ch. Hist., that both directions it is necessary to go a certain distance. We need one man who is the preacher. We find that necessary for a church. The N.T. does not prescribe it, but it is not contrary to the N.T. We also need to have a democratic base, to have an ultimate decision on certain matters, and certainly on the selection of officers, to rest in the hands of the congregation. Well, now, we have these two poles, and I want to discuss them.

Ecumenicity versus independence. Because today there are those who are very much stirred about the one and very much stirred bout the other.' And truth is not a dead center. A dead center, not at all as it is in any of these other things, but in recognizing the truth in both directions, and seeing how you fit the opposing principles together into a workable situation.

Well, I have written a number of statements under this, which I think will summarize our viewpoint on it. Number one, the true Christian must never forget his privilege and responsibility as a member of the Universal Church, the true Body of Christ. Now here is where the great ecumenical movement of our day, which I think is a bad movement, a movement which is working great harm, is a movement which has a great appeal to many people because it is

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