

you don't need those things today but he ~~XXXXXXXX~~ tells Tibley that he should not let just certain very stiff standards keep him from living an efficient life for the service of the Lord. Well now in this case without looking in the Greek and examining it specifically, it may be that the two are exactly the same, just translated differently. But making just a judgment from the English here, I would think that He is giving a little stricter standard for the elders than for the deacons. The elders not given to "why" - not a man who people say, "Well, I never saw that man drunk. I never did but you know sometimes the amount he drinks I kind of wonder how he doesn't get that way." Well, he's a man who - whereas with the deacon, it's a lower position, it's a position of less responsibility, and a man could possibly be qualified for a deacon and not quite for an elder. Now I don't want to speak dogmatically but it would impress me that the deacon is very definitely a lower position and the qualifications in general are not quite as strict as here for an elder - and that may be the difference there. Our point we're trying to stress here is simply that Paul ordered the appointment of local officers. He sent Timothy and Titus around and gave them authority to appoint local officers and he gave them the qualifications which should be applied. Our present purpose isn't to examine these qualifications fully but to go on to "D" which is "Timothy and Titus" as well as Paul exercised considerable authority over the local churches". The autonomy of the Christian I believe is taught in the Scriptures - that the Christian as a member of the Church Invisible is responsible to Christ and no human being has the right to lord it over him. The Christian is responsible to Christ but I believe that it is God's will there be a visible organized church and in this visible organized church, the Christian give up a certain amount of his autonomy and turn over a certain amount of his authority for the sake of good order through the organization. The Scripture teaches the autonomy of the individual. I do not believe one can fairly say the Scripture teaches the autonomy of the local church. Anybody who holds that, it seems to me, has not read Paul's Epistles because Paul very specifically gives Timothy and Titus and himself, considerable authority over the local churches. Well now the fact that Paul did have authority over the local churches - now somebody might say, "Well, Paul was an Apostle. He had a position which died with the Apostolic age." That