

is a view which many hold. Personally I'm inclined to think it's a correct view but you can't say that about Timothy. Now let's look at the evidence on this number 1 - Paul. What authority did Paul exert over local churches? Well II Corinthians 10 makes it pretty clear. II Corinthians 10:8-13. We call this number 1 - Paul because I give three of them. 10:8-13 Paul says, "Though I should boast somewhat more ~~XXXXX~~ of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed. That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letter - for his letters they say are weighty and powerful but his bodily presence is weak and his speech contemptible - let such an one think this, that such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we also in deed when we are present for we dare not make ourselves of the number or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves but they measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise, but we will not boast of things ~~XXXXXX~~ without our measure but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you." In other words he says we have an authority over you - we're not claiming a great, world-wide authority or anything like that but as far as you're concerned, we have authority. You think our letters are

4.75but when we come to see you we won't have much power but you'll find out when we're there, we'll be what we are in our letters. Paul claims authority. Now in Chapter 13, Verse 2 he said, "I told you before and so tell you as if I were present the second time, and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned and to all others, that if I come again I will not spare." That certainly is a declaration of authority. Paul is going to come and exert an authority in these local churches. Now so much for Paul - number 1. Number 2 Timothy. We'll look at evidence in I Timothy. We find in I Timothy 4:11-12 Paul said to Timothy, "These things command". But that isn't democratic. Here's the church and here's Timothy - one man and there are 50 people in the church and 40 of them don't want to do this. How undemocratic to set one man up against the 40. The Bible is not a teaching that we should do whatever the majority want. It is a teaching that we should do whatever the Lord wants - what the Word of God says is the thing we must do. And here Timothy, in the local church here, comes from the outside but with an authority, "These things command and speak. Let no man despise thy youth." Don't let