

to be subject to the authority of Timothy and Titus does not prove that all local churches are expected to be subject to some external authority. But it does prove that no principle can be laid down that a local church is not subject to an external authority. Whether there is a particular one at a particular time is in the Lord's hands or He may have put it in the hands of the individuals (11.)

But to lay down a specific principle that there can be no external authority superior to the individual, with the which is definitely denied by the example of what was done. And there is no statement anywhere saying that that

We can suggest that we think that that was a good thing under Apostolic situations and we think it's better not to do it now. We have a right to make our suggestion as to what we think is best. But to say it is wrong, we can't do that because

The fact that Paul did it to Titus and Timothy would lead you to think it extremely likely that Peter was doing it with some people and John was. They were probably all certainly - but we don't know. There's no evidence they were. And we may say under our present conditions/^{we think} it is much better ~~XX~~ for the advancement of the church to not have an autonomy with the state. But we can't say that it's wrong

I'm just laying it down that there is no Scriptural principle of an autonomy of the local church. But there is a Scriptural principle of the autonomy of the local Christian - the Christian as a member of the body of Christ is subject to Christ in everything. But we have a physical organ here. And how big is your physical organ to be - three people? Is it to be a hundred people, is it to be ten thousand people? We have no Scriptural evidence. And the Lord wants us to use our brains to see what is the most effective, what avoids the dangers that are small, what avoids the dangers that are big. And if a group of us wants to say, "We think that the best maximum unit

(13.) but it is a Scriptural principle that it is wrong to have one which has a hundred thousand people in the group meeting in 500 local churches, instead of having 30 or 50 or 300. There's no Scriptural