

(Student question) And that thing there's no Scriptural evidence for. There is no Scriptural evidence for making a principle that a local church must be autonomous. I'm saying that the individual has an autonomy and if a group of individuals want to form a church and if they desire that this church be autonomous, I don't see any warrant in the Scriptures to deny that much (14.) but I don't think they have any right to criticize another Christian that desires to form a group which will be larger. That's all I was saying. And this whole matter you've raised - please don't

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Please don't think that there's any such thing as a sore(er?) subject as far as our discussion of either Church Govern~~ment~~is concerned or of Systematic Theology. We have one purpose in mind - to see what the Scripture teaches. Not to support any particular group but to see what the Scripture teaches on the various particular matters we look at - that's our whole purpose and I may sidestep any question that is raised in either class simply because it doesn't fit with the particular part of the subject we're dealing with and we have to make progress. But that will be the only reason. There is no subject in the field of Church Govern~~ment~~ or Systematic Theology which I do not desire to face absolutely frankly and fully in the light of the Scriptures at such time as is possible. (Student question) No, no, and what you've mentioned I would like to go into ~~XXX~~ rather fully but I just think that right at this point isn't the best point to do it. (Student question) Yes, I would say we have them doing this thing and it's recognized and they're told not to let anybody despise their authority. Therefore I say that we must recognize that that is a way God sometimes works. And for all we can say, a way He might choose to work today. I would say equally that we do not have any evidence, I believe, that He ~~XXX~~ passed on this authority to subsequent days. And therefore I would say it is a matter for us to consider in the light of reasoning - what is the type of organization which will most effectively promote His Word in our particular circumstances and situation and we can go to one extreme or the other. We