

of the human heart leading to an acceptance, then we go to the opposite extreme. And you get a situation where the pastor is not only the teaching ~~XXXX~~ elder, but he combines the functions of all the ruling elders. He runs everything and as long as he's a good man with his eye on the Lord, sometimes it works wonderfully, ^{he can go ahead grandly.} But if anything goes wrong with him, he begins to get lazy, he falls into some sin, something does ~~wrong~~, and you get into a very disagreeable situation. And when they finally get rid of him - I know a church out in the West where this happened and then they got a man in and they had it understood - the elders said to this man, "Now we hire you to preach. You preach and you don't need to come to our meetings." They held their meetings, they decided their policies, decided how to run this church. He wasn't even present. He was their hired employee to preach. And that's going from one extreme to the other. The proper course inbetween the two depends on the individuals involved and the situation - you can't lay it down. You have (9.5), you have to try to find it. In this world of sin you'll never find it . But either extreme has tremendous dangers.

Yes? (Student question) Well, that would vary. But as far as this particular situation is concerned, ^{here we can't tell} because I don't think he's speaking to Timothy here about those whom he is now ordaining as elders. He's probably speaking about those whom he finds as already elders, like in Chapter 5, Verse 1 he says, "Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father." Timothy was not only ordaining elders but he was exerting oversight over those who already were ~~XX~~ elders, getting rid of some unworthy man, making some changes, encouraging those who were doing well, and whether these men would be men who had come right out in the church, or who had moved there recently, doubtless the whole thing there was a lot of traveling and a lot of changing (10.75) and whether Paul said, "Well now here's a church down here which has two men in it who are most wonderful at presenting the Word, they have grown in the Word. Here's this church over here and there're a lot of grand people in it but the Lord has given the gift of teaching and presenting the Word well and I'll see if one of these can't come over there. We don't know (11.) where they came out of the church or . But at least we seem to have here a suggestion of a ~~XX~~ distinction. It's not a clear statement surely, but a suggestion^Δ. Yes? (Student question)