

offer the flock, which seemed to St. Jerome to be a proof that the elder and the bishop were - just like one church will have a minister and another will have a pastor. There are different terms which may be applied to the same office. Yes? (Student question)

We do not have Scriptural evidence. The only evidence I would say as far as I know that we have is that the word deacon - is that there were seven men appointed by the Apostles (9.75) but they appointed seven men and it is generally thought . And these seven men were supposed to go out and do that sort of thing but we immediately find them preaching. But they occupied a subordinate position to the elders. The word deacon is a Greek word which simply means "a servant" ^{one who is} -/performing service - Paul calls himself a deacon. He says he's a deacon of Christ. He says that Christ has given him the ministry, this deaconship. Deacon seems to be a word which is used in a general sense for any service but which would seem to have been specialized by the time of the writing of the later Epistles, into officials in the church who had a position inferior to that which the bishops held. But as to the precise details of their service, it seems to have varied to some extent and it is not specifically laid down (Student question) Yes, but I'd rather leave that until our next head. That is, we are at present in number 3 - what the Scripture teaches about God's commands to the local church - and we can't stick to it, we have to look forward a little but I'm trying not to look forward much and then to make our next head be a survey of church government since the time of the Apostles and there to look into it. We will have to look into it a little but I'd rather not go very far, just rather stick to this one point we've ~~xxxxx~~ mentioned. Because after all the vital thing is what does the Scripture teach - that's the vital thing. And then - as God has worked in history or as God has led man, and sometimes they followed Him and sometimes they've gone away from Him but a survey of it is helpful to us to understand the meaning and application of what is in Scripture. But I think it's good to differentiate. Whatever He lays down definitely we should follow but whatever we find has worked in experience is for us to consider

Well Titus 1:5 then - at the present point I'm thinking of is the plurality of officials as far as the is concerned. Titus 1:5 says "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders