

Yes, it would certainly imply that all the elders ruled - that the authority of the ruling is shared by the elders. That was our main point under this head - point "E" was that there is a plurality of authority and this point was that among those that had authority there would be the one perhaps that was singled out - he had a different function but he shared authority. It is not extremely explicit but there are certainly suggestions in that direction. Yes? (Student question) I Thessalonians - I don't recall having looked particularly at that passage. Let's look at it. Of course I Thessalonians is getting very early in the development. That was one of the very first churches that Paul had ever established and there he said (5:12) "We beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's ~~sake~~ sake." That would seem to speak of the whole group in general. Yes. I would think so. I think that's a good verse to add to our list here. I Thessalonians 5:12. Well now Number 3 is an interesting point. Number 3 - the church has an obligation to pay a reasonable salary to the teaching elders. Some people say that's the only verse in the Scripture that some ministers believe in. I think there are other things much more important, but this is a vital part of Scriptural teaching - I Timothy 5:18. You notice that I didn't say that the man has an obligation to receive a reasonable salary from the church. I said the church has an obligation to pay ~~xx~~ a reasonable salary to a teaching elder and I think it's the minister's duty to help the church to realize what its responsibilities are. I think that's true. But Paul rejoiced that he could earn his living with tentmaking. He rejoiced he was not chargeable to any of the churches but he insisted that the church had the obligation to pay for its service (servants?). He said in Verse 17 - "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. (Verse 18) For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward." Now that isn't extremely clear but I think it's definite and I think it's clear in connection with I Corinthians 9:13-14 - "Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that