

G51

comes when there isn't proper leadership. (Student question) I think there are dangers there too but I think that something a little bit in that direction could be worked out. For instance if your group of elders or of deacons, if they would perhaps decide that it was good to have a decision on whether they wanted him to continue - something like that. But I think every year for the people - to put them in too much of a fussy state of mind of judging - I think there's great danger of that. (Student question) Yes, well with a bishop I can see how that could be a very useful thing. But simply to have a vote like that which would decide, would be too easy for a man to be looking for popularity instead of standing for the Word of God. There may come an emergency when 75% of the people will be against you for a month or two and in the end they'll all be for you and they realize how right you are. One after all is there to serve the Lord, not to serve

and not be too easily voted out. I think that it should take a period of time for anything like that. But in most of our Presbyterian Churches it is too hard - and I think in most of the Baptist Churches too. I know of a place in Philadelphia where a man came into a church and he preached. The building would seat 600 people and it was jammed full the first night he came. And they never had that big a crowd again. And the crowds kept getting smaller and smaller and smaller. And ~~XXXX~~ the people said, "You don't seem to be making it go here. You ought to move on." Well, he was just a man who in his manner was not adapted to that particular type of people. He could do an excellent piece of work with a different group of people somewhere else. But with those people his manner just rubbed them the wrong way. There was a different background. And he was not suited for that particular congregation. But he just stood up and didn't think people were treating him right. He said, "I'm going to keep on preaching here as long as there are six people to hear me." And it came to one night there were only three people present. He said, "Well that's the six. I'm getting out." But that wasn't right to the church. That was absolutely not right and the people would get dissatisfied and they'd drift off and go to other places. And good people don't like to start an agitation to get rid of a man. If they can easily move somewhere they'd rather do it ordinarily. But it shouldn't even be necessary. I think that some way inbetween needs to be worked out. You do need a pastor,