

to Jerusalem and talked to the apostles to see whether he might have run in vain, and whether his ideas might not be correct and he found that he agreed thoroughly with the apostles in all the vital things. When they had the big struggle, they went to Jerusalem and held a council and the council said, We will give this regulation. Now the regulation, which they gave was very general. It didn't try to lay down specific terms. But we find again in the NT thus that we find the idea of a general unity of the people of God. And we find also the idea of independent initiative being unhampered so long as it is kept within a general area. Of course Paul strongly rebukes those who have been so faithful and then have turned away from him.

One thing we must not forget, is that there is a strong teaching in the NT of the unity of the body of Christ. Not a teaching that there should be one organization of which you are told what you must do, but that there is a unity. Eph. 4 brings out so very clearly that there is ~~a~~ one body, there is one spirit, there is one baptism. There are different members but there is one body. He is not talking there about ^{an} individual church. He is certainly talking there about the whole body of Christ. I believe it is very vital that in some way, in fact in as many ways as possible we recognize that unity. The NT does not create a thousand diverse bodies. There is one body with different individuals having different gifts within the body. So we have two principles there.

The Bible certainly does teach the importance of having a unified body and a recognition of a unified body. The NT also teaches the importance of allowing a large range of possibility for individual initiative. Just how to combine these is not an easy thing to do. When you come to combine them, you have to think of