

Church History Senior S7

change the action which says the other action is irrevocable, but just as far as it can possibly be done the attempt has been made to insure that

would never occur in the Bible Presbyterian church and that the property belongs to the people who had built it up and who had given the money for it and it remains with them in case they find it desirable for one reason or another to separate from the . (Student) Yes. The majority at least, and perhaps that ought to be made a little stronger, perhaps it ought to require two-thirds vote, I don't know that that has been definitely , but as it is at present the majority controls the church and the church can withdraw. I think it would be better if the , because majorities can . Even with a church which is founded as the result of a strong stand for the Word of God one cannot positively declare that it will always remain true to the Word. It takes the actions of men to keep anything true and the best organization you can make will not guarantee it. The time may come with any group when the people have to separate themselves from it. It is my personal guess that in the Presbyterian Church U. S. A. today there would be dozens of churches and thousands of people who would step out from it as a result of its modernism today if it were not for the realization that they have to lose their property, and that all this money they have put in to building up these fine buildings, all that would go if they were to step out. It is one of the two greatest influences that is held there to keep <sup>subject</sup> people/to the organization. The other one is, of course, the pension plan, whereby a man puts in a certain sum of money every year for a pension and then if he steps out he loses his pension, and that is another instance to force subordination to a developing hierarchy. Theoretically the Presbyterian viewpoint always has been no hierarchy, equality of the clergymen, independence of the local church as far as its own particular matters of activity are concerned and control by the Presbytery in so far as it is necessary to enforce that the ministry of the church be sound . It is an ideal which is half way between the extreme of the monarchicism of the Roman catholic church