

Well, now, number 2, the headship of Christ. Christ is the head of the invisible ~~x~~ church, He is also the head of ~~the~~ every visible church insofar as it is ~~xxxx~~ a true church. Insofar as it is a true church, it must receive its leadership from Him, it is a church at all only because its members are knot together with Him. They receive their nourishment from Him, have been saved through Him, are seeking to do His will, and are seeking, in their organization to carry out His ~~x~~ desire and through their organization to accomplish His purposes.

So, the ideal of a visible church is to ~~x~~ have the headship of Christ be more and more a reality in its existence and its attitude. The ideal of the visible church is not a democracy, nor a human dictatorship, nor a rule of intelligence and reason, it ~~x~~ is a rule of Christ. That is the ideal. That is what it must strive to secure. It is to have an organization in which the members are acting in accordance with His will, and truly in line with His headship.

(question) We will say that the church must seek to ascertain what is the will of the head of the church. Now as to what means it should use, it should seek, in the Scripture, to find what means it ought to use. But its objective is not to do what the majority wants, its objective is to do what Christ wants. Now if it is convinced that by finding what the majority wants it can best find what Christ wants, then it is a means to an end. But it is not the end. Democracy cannot be the end in a true visible church. But the will of Christ must be the end. Now how to attain it is a matter for consideration. But I do not think of any place in the Scripture where it says the way to find out what Christ ~~xxx~~ wants is to count noses. When Moses came down from the mountain and saw the people worshipping the golden calf, Moses had the tablets of stone which he broke and Aaron had the golden calf, and suppose that then Aaron said, well now just a minute Moses, don't get so excited. How do we know which is the will of the Lord. Let's have a vote of all the ~~xxx~~ people. Let's see ~~xxxx~~ whether the golden calf or the tablets of stone are right. I wonder what Moses would have said.