

and praises God for making him a deacon. So the word is used not very clearly in the N.T. But the development in subsequent times was that the deacon was a lower office, and it probably finds its roots here, although it is not very clear.

Now, G, is a point which I wish we had an hour to discuss. It is a very very vital question. I will give G a very general title. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ G, preliminary consideration of the vital question, how many people should share in the exercise of power. That is a very vital question. A vital question, and we are about to consider it. How many people should share in the exercise of power. Now I would ~~it~~ just like to make a suggestion, here. Which is perhaps not provable, but which I think has much to support it. And that is this, that the reason the N.T. stresses the plurality of ~~XXXXXX~~ rulers in every church organization and gives no stress whatever on any one man as being leader, is because the Lord knew that in the natural course of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ events there would be sufficient stress put on the one man. You see what I mean. I think this is very vital. I do not think that the N.T. fact of having a group of men in every one of these things means that it was God's will that everything be run by a group of men. Because, it is the common experience of humanity that if you want to run a thing well, you have one man run it. It is a common experience of protestant churches, in modern ~~XXXXXX~~ times, that if you have a church with two or three ministers, unless one is clearly the head one, you nearly always have trouble. It rarely works. You have to have one minister in a church. It is practically unthinkable ~~an~~ under ordinary circumstances, to have two or three equal ~~or~~ ministers in a church.

If you are going to run an organization, and you have to have a man who has the position, and if you are going to carry things out for ordinary administration, you have to have ~~XXXXXX~~ one man who has the authority, and the responsibility. That is ~~XXXXXXXX~~ common experience of mankind. It was the common practice in most of the O.T. situations, it has been worked out in govt., ~~the~~ people have tried to avoid it in most cases, they have ~~XXXXXXXX~~ found that it is necessary. Now, if you have one man in control, there is always the