

~~apostolic~~ apostolic times. Number 1, the apostles exercised a general function of appointment and oversight, much like an active missionary today. Now you ~~not~~ notice that is rather generally stated. There is no N.T. statement anywhere that tells us that an apostle had a right to come into a church and remove the officials and put somebody else in. Deal in arbitrary fashion with the ~~the~~ people. Where we have the apostles active in ~~Jerusalem~~ Jerusalem, they are acting as a group. We have no case where one of the apostles says this/ is the thing, do it. To the rest, although we have evidence that an apostle did ~~not~~ specifically lay down specific orders for particular churches. We have Paul writing to the church and saying you do not pay much attention to me, you he is small and weak and he won't have much, but when I get there he will find that I have a lot of power. Well, now that is not saying, you all know that I have authority to give you this order and you will take it. ~~But~~ But it is recognizing that he will have a tremendous lot of influence. It is about what a missionary leader would have today.

To how great an extent did they say, here is an apostle, he says it, we have got to do it/ immediately. To how great an extent did they say, well, this apostle said this, but is he right, let us discuss it. Naturally we are tremendously interested in what he has to say, he is one of the apostles, he knew the Lord, but after all, we ~~want~~ want to be ~~convinced~~ convinced. Which was their ~~attitude~~ attitude. We don't have any conclusive evidence, but in general I would incline toward the latter view. As far as I see any evidence in the N.T. the oversight of the apostles was pretty much like that of the missionary leader in a territory today. There are some missionaries who are just arbitrary, but most of those do not get along very well. Down in Northern Peru the Southern Baptists are doing a very very fine missionary work, and they have done very excellent missionary ~~work~~ work, and have a very large church of Peruvian Baptists. But among this church, there has been a split, in northern Peru. And the split is because some of them think the missionaries are too dictatorial, and the result is that you have two different branches of the Southern Baptists working in northern Peru. ~~They~~ They are large, they are