

1. Paul, we find evidence in II Cor. 10:8-13 and in IICor. 13: 2. Page 225.
2. Timothy, we find evidence in I Tim. 4: 11-12, 5:1, 19, 22. Page 225.
3. Titus, we find evidence in Titus 1:5, 2: 15. Page 225.
- E. The Acts and the Epistles where they speak of authority within a local church always speaks of a plurality of officials. Page 225.
1. The words elders and bishops are used interchangeably for the chief officers of the local church. Page 228.
2. Though the rule is in the hands of a group, special responsibility attaches to the teaching elder. Page 231.
3. The church has an obligation to pay a reasonable salary to teaching elders. Page 231.
- F. Since efficient progress always requires unified direction, the New Testament implies the development of a single leadership in the local church, though it seeks to guard against abuse by placing the rule in the hands of a group. The seven letters in Revelation 2 to 3, show us how much responsibility inevitably rests on the man who is designated as minister, pastor, or messenger. Page 231.
- G. The autonomy of the local Christian. The individual Christian, as a member of Christ's body, is responsible to Christ alone, and no man or group of men have the right to lord it over him. Yet the Christian as a member of the visible church is obligated to associate himself with other Christians, and to surrender part of his autonomy to the group. This is to be done for the sake of good order, for the protection of the Lord's people, and because of the weakness and fallibility of each individual Christian. Page 231.
1. What should we surrender? Page 243.
2. How large should the group be? Page 249.
3. What is schism? Page 250.
- H. God gave gifts for the edification of the whole church, and he desires that men ordain others for particular positions or functions in the visible church. Page 256.
1. From the standpoint of the ~~church~~ universal, God is the one who ordains. Page 259.
2. From the standpoint of the visible church, man has a duty to ordain those whom God has chosen, and to give Scriptural honor to those who are thus set apart. Page 262.
3. Precise function of officials for the local church are not fully delimited in Scripture. Page 258.
- a. Note the two passages about gifts. Page 258.
- b. Note the evidence for a special teaching elder. Page 259.
- c. Note the evidence for a plurality of ruling elders. Page 261.
- d. Note the evidence regarding other officials. Page 261.
- e. Compare the practice of different churches. Page 273.
- f. How great is the authority of the church over its members? Page 275.
- J. The local church is not a law unto itself. Page 280.
1. The power to make laws for Christ's church belongs to Him alone. His word is the only binding power. Page 287.
2. Every Christian has a responsibility toward the whole body of Christ including those Christians who do not belong to his particular local church or to his denomination. Page 287.
3. Some of the functions of government are different for a local church to administer by itself. Page 288.