

c. Structure:

Mostly what we have is a summary of what we don't know..beyond the book of Acts, that is. But following 100 AD we see a structure emerging on lines that are not uniform but are symptomatic of the needs of the whole.

- (1) there is a definite sense of belonging
- (2) there is a growing authority in the "office" of the bishop
- (3) there is a tendency to detail other "positions" in the fellowship
- (4) there is no significant indication of a centralized authority posture.

2. The Life of the Body

a. Discipline

There seems to be a carry-over of synagogue understanding..explaining the positioning of the eldership.

But discipline soon takes on aspects of formalism--i.e. the Didache

As with many things our knowledge comes from later periods and we are in the dangerous position of having to read it "backwards."

b. Theology and Teaching

Our primary source is the New Testament and the matter of canon is important.

The writings of the first century, though not definitive give some guidance. A teaching harmony is apparent but the details are not worked out.

For humorous and interesting reading in an area like this, try Calvin Miller: The Philippian Fragment.