

Basic to everything else and you can see it in the legalization of the church.

2. An essential commitment to the truth

A readiness to die for it, if necessary, is one of the strongest means of survival..it makes "membership" meaningful and shows worth and significance to those outside the body

3. Development of the Church: the "Sees".

a. Here are a couple of charts, more or less, to talk about this in broader detail.

The Monarchical Bishop...The "first" bishop of a territorial congregation. (The term is a pragmatic designation for what we might call today.."the founding pastor"

Elders...Men expected to serve the congregation after the general description of the office in the New Testament.

Deacons...Appointees by those over them for service in the church.

District Bishop..An appointee to serve as a church head as the local church develops daughter churches, etc.

These terms will vary but the ideas will be found in most denominational oriented bodies. It allows the stronger elements to give strength and aid to the weaker and this aids the total work of survival in a very positive way.

Well that is not exactly a chart, nor is this, but there are two essential views of the church which you should note. Our language is a bit perjorative but...

Apostolically the church is "where two or three are gathered together in my name.."

Ecclesiastically, the church is "the body as gathered and represented in its leadership."

Either view will help in survival and both are found through the history of the church. The second has by far the larger number of advocates and there are reasons for that into which we may not go.