

Spirit and the administrator over all is God the Father and these "distinctions" may be seen in 1 Corinthians 12 among other places. But the outworking of the whole project is placed in the hands of the believers who comprise it and it is left to their sense of biblical instruction how to organize and supervise the whole. There are lots of disputings over this subject in Christian fellowships and I do not think for a moment that we can put them all to rest in one or two short meetings. But we can see what the practical authority of the Word of God is in this matter and the areas that are open to our judgment or practice must be dealt with in the light of the particular truth that is given.

II. Discussion:

- A. There must be a will to govern. It is obvious that some governmental order is needed...someone must be willing to do it. We find this concept in 1 Peter 5:1-3 and in the reference to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20. It should be the desire in a brother's heart to be a voice for God in the fellowship and fulfill the expressions of 1 Timothy 5:17. Qualifications are given in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3 for this service (the ones serving) Neither the role of elder or deacon, etc., is seen in the Scriptures as a spiritual "gift". It is a point to which one aspires and honors the biblical qualifications that are needed for it. (Today I recommend the book on Biblical Eldership by Alex Strauch. You will also see that, exegetically, I think the role is that for males although the sisters have many responsibilities as well. These views are less popular today and we must be careful not to allow culture to have more authority than the Bible...and this note is written as I edit these talks, it was not an issue in 1974, or so it seems.)
- B. There needs to be a readiness to be governed. We see it in 1 Peter 5:1-3 and moreso in verses 4-6. The pupil must be willing to study or learn if the teacher is to fulfill the teaching role. Our unwillingness to submit ourselves to proper biblical authority is one of the major problems of this time. The servant needs to be yielded to the master. Our responsibility is to be yielded to the Lord and His Word and that, if followed, will put us in a position of submission to proper authorities. If there is no readiness to be governed...chaos results. Any reading of history will give you plenty of examples.
- C. There needs to be a display of governmental order. 1 Peter 5:7-10