

episcopus -
 and the word "~~episcopal~~ bishop" mean the same thing. The ~~episcopate~~^{us}, the bishop, shows his activity. The word "presbyter" shows his character. He is a man who is an elder, ~~whose~~ is entitled to be looked up to for his character, for his experience; but he is a man who has an oversight ("~~episcopate~~^{us}" means to look over - to oversee) over the flock of God. A representative of God in trying to protect the sheep from the wolves that would come in.

Now in the early days of Christianity - I ~~said~~^{shouldn't say} in the early days, - but after a few centuries there developed a ~~mistaken~~ distorted view on this, a view that the ministers formed a class by themselves, that they were the ones who knew, they were the ones who would determine and the people simply followed along. This is contrary to the original genius of Christianity and this is where Presbyterianism in church government has taken a decided position. No meeting of Presbyterian ministers has any standing unless there is ~~at~~ at least one lay elder present, because Presbyterianism holds to one position, the position of elder. Now there are ruling elders, ~~all~~ ^{all} elders are ruling elders, but there are one or two or three elders in a congregation who are teaching elders who have had particular training to teach the Word of God. But as to position, as to standing, they are on a level with other elders.

Presbyterianism has always been against the clericalism ~~which~~^{that} developed in the Roman Catholic church and it is to this day a characteristic of many churches. When I was a boy I heard the statement made - a Methodist minister and one member of the congregation can out-vote everybody else in the congregation. A Methodist bishop and one minister can out-vote all the other ministers in a particular area. Presbyterianism has taken a position ~~which~~ is in between the position of dictatorship from above and the position of anarchy because of lack of unity or organization. It takes a position which seeks democracy - seeks to give the people the right to make decisions and to elect from among their number those in whom they have confidence to study matters in detail and make decisions upon them. It does not stand for independency, it does not stand for anarchy, for breaking up the small groups, and it does not stand for the apocrypha [?] which many a Baptist minister exercises over his congregation, or in which many a denomination is exercised by an in-