

Church History S 1

It is a church, in the main, of wealth, a church of which when people, when Methodists or Baptists or people of various denominations get more money or more leadership in the community, they move over into the Episcopal church very often, and yet it has retained, I believe, even a good many very Godly men in its leadership along with many very rank unbelievers who have been right from the start. But in connection with that I think it's worth saying a word about the government of the Episcopal church. It has a government--the Church of England has a government like hardly any that I know of. The Roman catholic church, as you know, has the governmental system now, unlike the early church but a system which has developed, in which you have monarchical control. The pope can declare anything and the archbishop has to do it. The archbishop can tell the bishop what to do and the bishop can tell the priest what to do and the priest can tell the member of the church. Authority is absolute and monarchic. There is no appeal from the decisions that come from the individual and through the others whom he has appointed. Now that is the system of the Roman church and it is the system of the Methodist church, of the Salvation army and of the China Inland Mission. Those organizations have that ^{strange} monarchical control. It's rather/the Roman catholic church and the China Inland Mission should be two organizations with exactly that same control but that's my understanding that the China Inland Mission and the Salvation Army and the Methodist church have, the Methodists not quite so much but pretty nearly, it was originally exactly that and it has departed little from it, but in the China Inland Missions, for instance, there is a bishop--well he happens to be a bishop of the Church of England, the previous one was not, but he is the head, what is his name again, how is his title? (student) No, but I mean his title, what is the title which he has? He is director. Director. He's the Director of the China Inland Missions. His office is in China. He has absolute authority to receive missionaries, to drop missionaries, to move them, to make any decision he wants and his decision is final. In this country there is a director for North America, there's one for England, there are directors in different other countries, there was one for Germany, I remember, twenty years ago.