

And that is, in most of our presbyterian forms of govt., that principle is clearly stated. It is said that decisions ~~of the councils and the body~~ of council and of body are ministerial. In other words, they are pointing out what the body feels that the Word of God means, not making a decision on their own. They claim no authority. Now many of them, I will say, will take authority, but officially, technically, properly, historically, they do not claim authority to say, this is what we think you should do, you have got to do it. All they have authority to say is, this is what we find taught in the Word of God, and this is what our church thinks should follow. Their authority is that of explaining, and ~~expounding the~~ expounding the Word. And studying it and coming to an agreement upon it. Not upon the authority of dictating to others, on matters which the Scriptures does not have anything ~~to~~ to say.

(question) I don't think the elders and the apostles are equivalent terms. ~~It~~ Personally I do not see any evidence that the apostles were infallible. I don't see any Scriptural statements of that kind. I think, my personal opinion is that Christ established the apostles to have general oversight over the beginning of his church. And that he gave his revelation of his word to the prophets. In other words, the prophet is any man to whom a revelation is given. So.....(10) but He might choose to give it through an apostle, or he might give it through ~~someone~~ someone else. And some of the apostles were prophets, they may all have been, but we have no ~~any~~ evidence of it anywhere, but we certainly ~~know~~ know that there were prophets who were not apostles. But the prophet is just a term for anyone to whom ~~g~~ God gave a revelation. It is ~~a~~ not an official position. The ~~an~~ apostle is an ~~is~~ official position of those who Christ established to have general oversight over the establishment over His church. But no church today that I know of believes that the ~~apostolate~~ apostolate was continued, that they could appoint successors who would be apostles. And then the elders or bishop, the two terms mean the same, are the officials of the church who took over authority, who had not been specifically appointed by Christ.