

Well, now, the other extreme, perhaps you would ~~say~~ find best exemplified in an organization like the Plymouth Brethren/ in which theoretically every individual ~~has~~ a Christian has his duty to God alone. And his responsibility is to the Lord alone, he is here in the world to serve the Lord, and his relationship to other people theoretically is a matter ~~of~~ of convenience. In actual practice, certain of the branches of the Plymouth Brethren have just as tight an organization and just as hard and fast a govt. as any group ~~in the~~ world. But it is more or less, it is not obvious, and not worked out in definite form. But the absolute independent system, where each individual works as ~~an~~ an individual by himself is a system which simply does not work out. And ~~inevitably~~ inevitably you develop certain areas of control, which are not expressed, which are not clearly understood often, but which become very very strong. That is true in many churches which take the attitude that they are entirely independent of other churches. Very often, in such churches a system develops where the minister is the absolute autocrat in the church.

I remember a church out in New Mexico, one time, where the minister was the absolute autocrat. ~~Yet~~ Yet it was, theoretically an absolutely independent church. In that town, I think, over half the people of that church the minister had put out on one excuse or another. Sometimes, doubtless, they were deserving of it, of being expelled from the church, but there was such a great number of them that I am sure that many of them were not. But he held everything right in his hand, he had absolute control over that church. And, of course, if you get a perfect man, a wonderful godly man, there is much to be said for that type of church. But it is, as you see, a big step in the direction of the hier. when you get that ~~authority~~ authority in one man. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

(question) The Quakers might be a very good instance of this type. The Quakers have taken the ~~attitude~~ attitude against this church of England claims that were carried out more in the days when the Quakers came out, and so they took the opposite extreme. Each individual before God, standing alone and as an individual. And the Quakers refused, in the old days, to