



## BIBLE TALK

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Question: Who is in charge of governing the church?

Answer: Before religious unity can be accomplished, a form of church government must be agreed upon. It is very difficult for one to give up his ideas for another's.

Solution: There is a form of church government on which all sincere believers can agree: That is the one given in the Bible.

Christ being the head of the church (Eph. 1:22) and having all authority (Matt. 28:18) in matters pertaining to the church, is therefore the one to make laws for it.

Christ did prescribe that each congregation of Christians choose its own overseers (Acts 6:1-7; 14:23; Titus 1:5-9). In every case, there is to be a plurality or men. They are called elders (older); bishops (overseers); pastors (shepherds of the flock). Acts 20:17, 28-29. These are not different classes of rulers, but describe the same officers. These men are assisted by deacons, evangelists and teachers (Phil. 1:1; Eph. 4:11). The elders are not law-makers for that has, "once been delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). They are to teach that which has been delivered. Their authority is not to extend beyond their own local group (1 Pet. 5:2). Fellowship and cooperation exist between congregations, but each is self-governing or autonomous.

Synods, conventions, conferences and councils are not mentioned in the Bible, nor does it mention pastor rule, Episcopal, Presbyterian or papal hierarchy types of government. These are made by men. The organization of the church of the Lord can be read about in the Bible. It makes sense that if we want scriptural and effective results, we must do it the Lord's way! (Col. 3:17).

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