

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

The Character of Government in the Body of Christ:

1. Greater Authority requires Greater Humility
Lk. 22:24-27
The greater must be humbler.
Example: Eph. 5:22-25
2. All Genuine Authority Over the Saints Comes From God
Heb. 5:1-5:
Volunteers Are Not Accepted
Acts 20:8:
You have no authority over you in Christ unless Christ has put him there.
There is no authority in the body of Christ unless someone has been anointed by the holy Ghost to be in authority over God's saints.
Prov. 29:18 (*"vision" here and the verses below means "revelation"*):
God's people suffer greatly, and sometimes perish when there is no one anointed by God to guide them (1Sam. 3:1), or when their pastors only think that they have heard from God (Jer. 14:14; 23:16).
Ezek. 13:1-16:
Nothing built upon false teachings will endure, no matter how many people trust in it. Hope placed in false doctrine will not be realized.

Rules for the Rulers:

1. 1Peter 5:1-7:
The pastor's primary function is to feed the flock of God with truth.
Jer. 3:12-15; 23:1-4: "Feed you with knowledge"

God's pastors do the work not because any man wills it, even himself. One can take this position only by submission to the will of God.
Acts 26:13-20: "I was not disobedient"

God's pastors do not do the work for money.
Jn. 10:11-13; Tit. 1:10-11: A hired man cannot stand the test.

God's pastors do the work for God's glory, not their own.
Jn. 7:16-18; IIIJn. 9: A self-appointed pastor seeks his own glory.