

are under church discipline to do certain things to rectify or make restitution for public sins. Whenever the church directs people to do certain things and tells them how to do them, the third function comes into play.

In connection with this third function, the principle that certain individuals hold authority to direct other individuals to do certain things must be counterbalanced by the principle that wielders of authority must be held accountable for its exercise by those who confer that authority. Supervisors and managers of other people in the church must not only plan, organize, and direct the activities of those people; they must control and evaluate them, remembering that they in turn will be held accountable for their performance.

Also in connection with this function, it should be remembered that, although membership in the body of Christ is not optional for a believer, nevertheless membership in a local body of believers is a matter of voluntary association (as to which body one affiliates with). Those who have responsibility to direct the work of other persons should remember that persons who hold paid positions in the local church are often more susceptible to direction and evaluation than persons who hold nonremunerated positions; thus one must be careful how he goes about directing both kinds of persons.

C. The Need of Government in the Church

1. It is needed to fulfill the teaching of Scripture

The Church is an organism, a living body of believers. But it is also to have a form of organization.

Acts 14:23 -- "And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."

Titus 1:5 -- "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you."

I Timothy 3:1-2, 8, 14-15 -- "It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach. . . . Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, . . . I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."