

## 19. Church Government

### BC 30-31

#### Principles of Church Government

##### **Church government**

Distinction between council & consistory

Principles of church government set forth where?

##### **Autonomous church institute**

Each institute a complete picture [I Tim. 3:15; I Cor. 12:27]

Denomination not given the keys

##### **No person/body stands between Christ & the church institute**

Higher officebearers, assemblies

Civil government

##### **Instituted churches federate**

Keep the dogmas [Acts 16:4]

Assist spiritually & financially [II Cor. 8:9]

Make-up of Classis & Synod

##### **Woman not to hold the special offices**

Proof: [I Tim. 2:8-12, 3:2,12; I Cor. 14:34]

Deborah: Prophetess raised up to the shame of the men

Phebe [Rom. 16:1]: Servant, not officebearer [John 12:26; Mt. 23:11]

Priscilla [Acts 18:26]

##### **High calling of women in the church**

Saved through childbearing [I Tim. 2:15]

Keepers at home [Titus 2:3-5]

#### Forms of Church Government

##### **Congregationalism/Independentism**

Congregation [not elders] rule

Advice of broader gatherings is not binding

##### **Prelacy [Rule by bishops]**

Wrongly distinguishes bishops & elders [Titus 1:5,7]

Ultimately leads to rule by one man [or small group]

##### **Erastianism [Rule by the state]**

Named after Thomas Erastus [16th century]

Goes with established church idea

Antichristian worldpower & false church [Rev. 13 & 17]