

When the average church-goer is asked who is running the Church, he or she will most likely respond by recognizing the pastor position in the Church. This is a great mistake as this kind of thinking is found nowhere in God's Word. God makes it clear that Christ is the head of the Church and everything thing the church is and does must submit to His sovereignty.

Without Christ, a church is nothing at all—in all purposes it is dead. While the pastor usually does and should serve as a spiritual leader within the body of believers, the members of the body or church should always recognize the one true ruler, Jesus Christ. The pastor, as we usually call him or her, is simply one *part* of the body. Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthians “The body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ.” I ask, is the hand any more important than the foot? Of course not. The ear is no better than the eye. All parts are necessary for the entire body to function.

The pastor is simply one of those parts. Yet, it seems that the church has placed too much responsibility on the pastor, and has lifted this office higher than all others within the body. What a shame! This is not what the church of the apostles would have wanted, nor what God would want. We must, as commanded by God, *all* play our part in the functioning church body. Many times we expect the pastor or other leaders to take care of everything and we burden them with responsibilities more than one can bear.

When we place too much stress on one part of the body, it becomes weary and eventually becomes injured. Then where does the body end up? In bed, not functioning at all, and waiting for healing. This is what will happen with a church body if the many parts do not function together cooperatively as *one* body functioning under the Lordship of Christ. Let us not make this mistake and all take responsibility in *Christ's* church, not the pastor's church!