

what are its functions? These are legitimate questions. If we can answer them, we can then proceed to examine our Ordinal and see how far it corresponds with Scripture.

I am presuming that the subject is *not*, what are the functions of a "Bishop" as we find him to-day, but, what are the functions exercised from the earliest times (or in New Testament times) and therefore, as it were, inherently belonging to the office.

Our 23rd Article speaks of "men who have public authority given them in the congregation to call and send ministers into the Lord's vineyard." This points to a distinct *source* of Orders. How far does this accord with New Testament teaching? I might state here, that I have written out all the passages in the New Testament bearing on the Ministry, so that I may be able to have before me, as I write, the exact words of Holy Scripture. I would state further that although I have these words before me in extract form, I have not made use of them without a careful endeavour to weigh their several contexts. This examination of the New Testament binds me to the clear conviction that the article quoted above is in accord with God's Word: The Apostles were the "men who had public authority given them to call and send ministers into the Lord's vineyard," in other words, they are the Source of Orders in the New Testament.

The Source of the Ministry is not in the Congregation unless we make it clear that by "Congregation" we mean the whole body including the Ministry as an integral portion. If the stomach does not partake of food, and having partaken, digest it, the brain cannot go on long to work; but the source of mental activity is in the brain, not in the stomach. All directed action comes from the brain. My actions can, of course, be spoken of as coming from my body, but the brain is the source of the action. Deprive me of my brain, and the other members of my body cannot meet in conference and create a brain. So, I take it, the Ministry is a part of the body (the church), but it is a part which is essential to it and was Divinely created to discharge its particular functions. It is that specialised part of the Body of Christ Divinely created for discharging its peculiar functions, and possessing the power to perpetuate its organism. I cannot admit, on Scriptural