

ment, agreed on by the governors of the church, consonant to the general rules of Scripture, may be considered as Scriptural.

Hence, though one form of government be agreeable to the word, it does not follow that another is not, or, because one is lawful, another is unlawful.

In all cases that form of government is to be settled which is best calculated to promote the welfare of the church in its present state.

The proper officers of the church are called, in the Scriptures, by different names ; probably for the purpose of representing the various and important duties of their office.

They are called *bishops*, from the oversight they are to take ; *pastors*, from the spiritual food they are to administer ; *ministers*, from the service they are to render ; *watchmen*, from the vigilance they are to exercise ; *elders*, from the grave and prudent example they are to set ; *teachers*, from the instructions they are to give ; *ambassadors*, from the treaty of reconciliation and peace they are sent to effect. 1 Tim. iii. 1 ; Jer. iii. 15 ; 1 Cor. iv. 1 ; Ezek. iii. 17 ; 1 Pet. v. 1 ; Eph. iv. 11 ; 2 Cor. v. 20.

These officers are to be invested with their office by ordination, or by prayer and imposition of hands, from regular ministers of the Gospel. 1 Tim. iv. 14 ; Acts xiii. 2, 3.

If one form is lawful, does it follow that all others are unlawful ? What form of government is to be settled in all cases ? What are the officers of the church called ? Why so ? Define the different terms ? How are these officers to be invested ?