

Q. Does not Holy Scripture give the people a voice in electing of Pastors and making laws for the Church?

A. Yes! As in the choosing of the Seven Deacons, and in the Council at Jerusalem, Acts 15.

Q. Does this privilege at all effect the source of the office-power of the clergy as before asserted?

A. No! their power is still from God, when they are by the Church and its Bishops appointed to the office, and the people acknowledge them as their overseers according to the law of Christ.

Q. What does John Owen, the great Independent Divine say on this head?

A. "This choice or election doth not communicate a power from them that choose unto them that are chosen, as though such a power as that wherunto they are called should be formally inherent in the choosers, before such a choice. For this would make those that are chosen to be their ministers only, and to act all things in their name, and by virtue of authority derived from them. It is only an instrumental ministerial means to instal them in that power and authority which is given to such officers, by the constitution and laws of Christ, whose ministers they therein are. These gifts, offices and officers being granted by Christ to the Churches, wherever there is a Church, called according to His mind, they do in and by their choice of them, submit themselves unto them in the Lord, according to all the powers, and duties wherewith they are by Him entrusted and whereunto they are called "True nature of a gospel Church." Ch. iv. v. 77.

Q. Do these views agree with the teaching of Independents on this head?

A. No! they protest against them.

Q. What position do Independents take with reference to Superior Courts in the government of the Church?

A. That there is no authority in Scripture for such: the decision of each congregation is final.

Q. How will you disprove this?

A. By the Council at Jerusalem recorded in the 15th Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

Q. How do Independents evade this?