

building phases of churches earth fillings had been transported and laid under floors. Together with those fillings many artefacts were added which not originally belonged to the cemetery.⁴⁴

It is useful to look at the history of the organizing process of the early church considering the diffusion of church doctrine and power. To attain power it was expedient to acquire as many and as varied strongholds as possible; adequate to this purpose, churches were erected by merchants, private chapels were owned by chiefs etc. and villages had their own churches. Once there had been enough strongholds, a consolidation of power was required so that small churches with their confused ownership and potential problems could be entrusted to the church. Maintenance and improvement of activities of the church would now have a dominating position. A private church was **not** the best possible solution for tax collection. Time had come for founding parishes. Some churches and chapels might have been changed into parish churches, others totally abandoned. Later population growth and new settlement caused by it and also promoted by church expanded the populated area. This, for its part, made it necessary to establish new chapels and divide parishes in order to maintain the church power. Thus, the development of church organization is a function not only of pursuit of power but also of demographic development.

(Translated by Mrs. Heli Lahdentausta, M. A.)

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⁴⁴ Hiekkänen 1986.