

--It seems to me that Protestantism as a force is the least healthy of the major bodies. It is full of liberalism of the most difficult sort and its sense of world commitment in a spiritual realm has been reduced to a political action mentality. It is still strong in numbers and is trying to galvanize itself on a global thrust...which is part of what this course is about.

e. The New Churches

--We refer to the developed bodies of the last two generations that have sought to return a spirit of salvific theology to the church. Many new or "Bible" type churches have been developed and these have been the growing community in the last period. Tangential to these has been the influx of charismata and effects on parts of the church that were otherwise very committed to liberalism. It is hard to know where all this will lead but it makes an interesting picture and a diversified study. It is not nearly so easy to pigeon-hole things now as it may have been at one time.

2. The Cultic Bodies

a. By definition....

a cultic body is a religious culture grown out of some reemphasized or newly propagated religious ideology. The cultic body is external to the church proper and so maintains an identity outside the church which is unlike the sect that seeks to maintain its identity within the church. Sometimes the difference is small...but as a general rule the cult takes its growth cell from the religious body and develops its life around ideas or revelations of its group while the sect seeks to maintain an elevated position for itself within the society. To confuse you even more, most of us in a class such as this, are sectarians, but hopefully none of us are cultists.

b. By variety....

The variety is endless but generally speaking, the cultic varieties are in this sort of classification:

--theosophic...those pertaining to a higher knowledge of God by virtue of a new or special sort of spiritual knowledge.