

4. Poor Rationale for Individual Denominations

Some of the rationale was always poor, as you may know, but if you no longer believe something...why stand for it?

5. A Desire for greater efficiency

In any objective analysis the church has not been an efficient instrument. It would be hard to find any organization showing less of this skill. Greater efficiency might be accomplished with a centrality of organization or control.

6. Elimination of Proselytizing

I will comment on it!

7. Better witness to fulfilling the commands of Jesus

This is the great call of ecumenists. It is articulated well in Cavert, Chapter VIII. (ON THE ROAD TO CHRISTIAN UNITY) It is a common theme by ecumenical leaders. It is also hard to deny that a united front would be a more credible witness to truth...but as Calvin said it..."a witness that began and ended with thee.." It does not seem that the church was a better witness to what the Lord gave us when it was a more concentrated and less individualized body.

C. Organizational steps in Development of the Modern Ecumenical Movement

We should not indicate that the movement was planned in some sort of executive session or international conspiracy. That there are forces at work in it of an unhealthy nature, I do not deny. But many of the pieces are forced in or fit in in the passage of time. We look at the matter in historical perspective as it occurred and view the result of what we have today as the logical conclusion of what has gone before.

1. Locally: The Church Councils

I am now going to organize material by paragraphs and will not have a very detailed outline breakdown. We will still be orderly but I do not want to have fourteen sub-points drawn out to " " /a/" " and the like.