

(1) The Wesleyan Community:

(a) Brief Historic note:

--Wesley, His Theological Posture and ecclesiastical preferment (some understanding of his own religious experience and background is necessary to appreciate this and I will try to spell it out sympathetically and accurately)

--Note the Wesleyan Societies and their relationship to the Church of England

--Note them in response to Whitefield and the openly Calvinistic bodies

--American Methodism: How a war changes theological complexion.

--Coke and Asbury

--Richard Allen

--Schism moves in the 19th century...not large but indicative of some problems...what they do not say is probably more important than what they do say... and the negative effects of schism movements are also very interesting.

--Common bonds in Wesleyan opinion:

--Broad Arminianism

--Hierarchical structures (powers differ)

--Interest in the total person

--subjectivity in intent and understanding.

Objectivity is not denied but it is not of very great interest in comparison, either

--Doctrinal standards: The Book of Discipline, etc.

Methodist history, like that of other bodies, is intensely interesting stuff. Unfortunately we never get to a lot of it and you either have to read it on your own or be propagandized in that direction. Suffice it to say that it was the growing church of the 19th century. Its growth on the frontier was particularly gratifying. But it gained in every area of American life. It moved ahead in education and societal commitment...of which we will say more in the near future.

(b) Wesleyan views on education:

--Wesley's own dilemma and answer