

d. Summary on Modern unbelief--..methods and progress.

Modern unbelief, as we have consistently defined it, is the great bulwark of theological foundations for the modern ecumenical movement. Without it the doctrinal compromises and nuances could never be reached. With it a common ground is found in what is rejected and in the acceptance of anything that does not require exclusivism. Before we continue to further material it is good to observe generally how the forces of modern unbelief have worked and this in itself may give us some idea as to how we may work. I am not saying things always happen in the following manner but it is a general trend that may be seen again and again.

- (1) Modern unbelief works best in a background of spiritual lethargy where the doctrines are neither taught nor lived with any forcefulness. A vigorous active church is the better way to avoid it as long as the vigor is marked with awareness of problems and concerns itself with the correct precedents.
- (2) Infiltration of the educational institutions...what is done in these takes about a generation to filter out to the general supporting public and by that time, as a rule, the institution is badly infected.
- (3) Appeals for broadening of doctrinal acceptance in the body. I am not saying this is always or necessarily bad... ..some bodies are hopelessly narrow to start with and this sets the precedent for a difficult easing in time to come. But all such appeals must be studied in the light of the Scripture to determine that they are not counter-productive to what the church wishes to be.
- (4) Infiltration and control of key committees, policy making bodies, and the inner workings of denominations that interact most keenly with other church. A few liberals in key positions is the idea.
- (5) Proposed agreement with the idea of living with dissent in the community, even though that dissent is in the area of doctrine, belief or practice. This call for toleration is only for the toleration of liberalism although it may not be given that way when it first comes to light. One will discover that militant liberalism is never very fond of being tolerant of militant evangelicalism.
- (6) Await a natural attrition of more conservative elements.. some will die, some will tire of the struggle and go elsewhere, some will capitulate in love to save arguments.
- (7) And finally, limit dissent that would disrupt the newly liberalized order.

We will look at some correctives later.