

1. Some General Concepts

- a. Virtually all separatist movements did not begin that way! Most were pushed to that end when it became apparent that the problems being faced were overwhelming or uncorrectable. As a rule this sort of decision was not made quickly but over the space of a generation or so. Separatism became a viable alternative when it was clear the intransigence of modern unbelief would not give way. Separatist ideology was then adopted to meet the need.
- b. The end result of separatism then was one of necessity more than of desire. Yet, when accomplished, it became (in many cases) intolerant of any non-separatist activity that had not yet been pushed to the brink.
- c. And determinate bodies, maintaining a separatist posture, tended to maintain the distinctives of the parent body while hoping to correct internal weaknesses. In some ways it was a cloning process but with a search for pure cells.
- d. Now whether the following proceeded or followed is not always clear but when separatism becomes established, its adherents give it a biblical nature and seek to uphold it on a doctrinal and theological basis.
- e. And, as with most movements that are created in the battle, tends to have difficulty with degree and acceptance. This is not a problem unknown in the other circles but it is strongly stated in separatist circles where truth is felt and polity is seen as important.

2. Brief Summary of Separatist Biblical Concepts

Most separatists feel that the following are sufficient to demand an exclusion of those who do not believe. The health and unity of the flock seemed to depend on the following concepts. I am not writing them out in detail...am leaving you a little space to note them as we go.

- a. The Unique and exclusive character of the Lord's Person

- b. The Unique and exclusive character of the Lord's Word