

b. Modern Separation--following the problems sketched:

--The Bible Protestant Church

formed in 1939 after the three way merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church. The last named was the most conservative and also the smallest. Seceding churches from the merger were able to retain their properties...after a court struggle, and reincorporated themselves as the Bible Protestant Church. In the last couple of years the name has been changed to the American Fundamental Church... or something such as that...I can never seem to find the exact notes when I need them.

--The Evangelical Methodist Church

This is the largest of the modern separations and was formed by a group of protesters in central Pennsylvania although the group has spread across the east and into the mid-west and south. It adopted a non-Episcopalian form of church government while holding a generalized Wesleyan Theology. Formed in 1947 it is the most vigorous of the modern separatist groups.

--The Southern Methodist Church

Incorporated in 1945 with an Arminian theology and a partial episcopate. It includes some elements of all the original methodist bodies but has had a tendency to follow some provincial aspects of American life and has grown slowly

--The Independent Fundamental Methodist Church (1942) and the Fundamental Methodist Church represent two very small bodies working mostly in the midwest. I know very little about them.

There are a few other groups..but you will notice that none of these have attained large size and it is probably due to the fact that the body had become so tolerant of modern unbelief that the appeal for division was not widely heard. It must also be noted that some of the separating churches took strong appeal to secondary causes for their separation rather than the Gospel-Sacrament issue.

b. Within the United Church Family

There has been no apparent mass separatist movement but there have been some elements that have departed and formed new churches. Some of these are grouped under the general heading of Continuing Congregational churches. It is also true that many member congregations chose not to enter the merger of '57 and so continued themselves apart. A lot of these have since become independent churches...some have joined the PCA, some the IFCA. But no continuing separatist body is in evidence.