

It is rather frightening to see the fact that among fundamentalists there is often found an isolationist philosophy that makes the leaders of the church unwilling to work with and for one another. Probably the same mental quirks are found in other places but this is the one we know so well. The attitude is.. "If I'm not doing it it is not being done well or should not be done at all." This inhibits trust and combined action.

5. The failure of para-church agencies:

When this occurs it suggests that inter-church moves will not succeed and evangelicals become fearful of trying such. It is a case of inverted reasoning. Rather than have a concerted thrust against the forces of liberalism, et al, many believers have sought to have a "stand" of their own. It makes great divergence of expression and the fragmentation often minimizes the total effect. You will see it today in the protest movements against immoral television, etc. It seems that every protestor must have one's own group. We might note that some para-church agencies have succeeded right well..but even these menace many brethren who feel the need for a stand and system of their own.

6. The danger of fighting fire with fire...

The fear is that if the ecumenical forces are monsters we must do everything possible not to become monsters ourselves. We would not criticize this except that in trying to avoid an evil extreme, we may fall into another equally evil predicament.

No doubt other factors may be adduced. These are the ones I have observed most frequently. The employment of them seems to be one of the devices of the enemy for keeping the people of God inept and ineffective in causes of truth exposure.

B. Separatist Reactions

The bulk of this has been carried by individual groups and by two coalitions: The American Council of Christian Churches and the International Council of Christian Churches. The former has suffered from considerable division in the last few years while the latter has suffered from general ineffectiveness in the USA in particular. The "fundamentalist" group under the BJU leadership in the last few years has been another coalition body, and as I have noted, there have been a number of individual and denominational groupings.

1. The American Council

a. Background:

The attempt of the FCC to gain control of radio broadcasting and later a similar attempt on the military chaplaincy, made it apparent that some form of evangelical witness was needed to countermand these things. The 30's saw something of an end to the formal modernist-fundamentalist debates and the