

the membership of a church. Only the most naive would fail to recognize the existence of imperfections within our churches. The key issue is the direction of our churches as determined by the Seminaries, Synods, and Councils. When these depart from Scriptural authority then the Bible calls for separation.

But from Carnell one would get the feeling that if John Calvin were here today he would become the foremost opponent of the Separatist movement. Therefore, the need of our study is obvious.

#### Calvin's View of the Church Summarized

Before going into detailed discussion of Calvin's writing on the Church, and on its purity and unity, it is well to get in mind certain summary principles regarding Calvin's view. This is required because the writings of Calvin are enormous and it is hard to assimilate all that he says on any one subject from the very many places where he may deal with it. Consequently, a few summary principles must be drawn and discussed regarding Calvin's view of the Church. These are as follows:

1. Calvin did not feel that the Church would be humanly perfect. Practically he realized that every associated person and every member of a local Church, if saved, would not be entirely sanctified during his earthly life. He realized also the possibility that not all church members would be "saved". He believed, however,