

framework of the church itself, and, if not corrected, tend to develop schism and ill will. The ones we mention in this section are based on New Testament observations but will generally be supported in the histories as we have them for as long as we have had them!

1) Personality struggles: very little need be said. 1 Cor. 1 shows the reality.

2) Heresies. A heresy is the extension of a point of teaching to where it is disruptive of others and particularly of grace. See some aspects of this in Hebrews (see also the charted notes on pages 37-38)

3) Apostasies: turning from one point and movement to another system. See Jude.

4) Ideals...Developing particular standards of living and allowing them to become the norms of life and salvation. See Galatians.

5) Philosophical ideals or entities are the sorts of problems produced when human wisdom is preferred to the Scriptures.

Some of these overlap, of course, and they do not exhaust the potential list. They all occur within the life of the church and while external influence may affect them, the primary breeding ground is within the fellowship. Paul's warning in Acts 20 is very much to the point in this case.

An internal problem of a very different sort but one of great perplexity was that of the CANON. Due to persecution, internal strife, shifting population, difficulty in publication and communication, the formulation of the canon in an "official" sense was slow. Canonical principle is a matter of inspiration. But this waited to be recognized throughout the community for there was much literature and the inspired nature was not heralded by trumpets. Interesting material may be gleaned from Eerdmans HANDBOOK TO THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY but the chart on pages 94-95 is a bit disappointing in dating. Combined with the canon lists on page 105 is a nice summary of the matter. In our mind the canon probably was understood as we now understand it in the middle of the second century but certainly did not have universal acceptance until the early part of the third century. Canonical books that were disputed are often lumped