

--There is one true church and it is like the seamless robe of Christ. It is an emotive organization but it is recognized in its entitital state by all who are truly Christians. Persons who live apart or in defiance of the church are not Christians. If they were they would see the oneness of the Lord's people.

--Periodical reform of that body is needed as it carries human form and gives itself easily to human excesses.

--But schism is not the way to reform, however. Reform comes from preaching penitent struggle, and allowing God time to accomplish His will. Schismatics are really a variety of heretics.

--There is a parity of bishops and the church consists in them..the bishops. One must be in order and in yieldedness to the bishops.

--The bishop of Rome enjoys a firstness but not an overlordship of other bishops.

You will discover that Rome has enjoyed Augustine's ecclesiology but not his theology!

The second item is his system of Bible interpretation. He argued for a fourfold interpretative system. The Scripture had a fourfold sense:

-Historical
 Aetiological
 Analogical
 Allegorical

And I will discuss these to some degree. In the mind of Augustine, if the sense of a passage was in doubt, the principle of the rule of faith was used to secure the proper meaning. As the body of the church had seen it, so it would be seen. His strong emphasis was on allegory as it was the "meat" of the word as opposed to the literal which was the "milk" of the Word. His influence in this area of biblical study is very pronounced.

But as a person, Augustine is marked by piety, learning and great personal devotion. These all surface in purity of life, holiness in daily practice. His CONFESIONS are most worthwhile reading and while the