

(4) The Methodist Protestant church developed in 1830 as an objection to the strictness of the episcopal system. The effort to reunite this segment began in 1877 and was consummated in 1939 when the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Methodist Protestant church merged into the The Methodist Church. When this merger occurred a few Methodist Protestant churches successfully withdrew and formed the Bible Protestant Church now known as the American Fundamentalist Church.

(5) The Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren church in 1966 and grew to a number in excess of 13,000,000 members. The last two decades have seen this number wither by about 4,000,000 and the body is known, as you probably know, as the United Methodist Church.

(6) The denomination has been active in education with many seminaries and colleges. This was not true of earlier Methodism but developed quickly. It has also been a leader in social action work although this, too, has lessened, with the loss of strong evangelical leadership.

#### d. Divergent Methodist bodies

The Methodist church in England was continually wrecked with schisms and divisions of many varieties. The fellowship in the United States escaped most of these but in the nature of things no body is immune to self-criticism and therefore division so we note the following:

(1) The Free Methodist Church 1860

(2) The Wesleyan Methodist Church 1843

(3) The Evangelical Methodist Church 1946

(4) And the cognate bodies that have distinctly Methodist backgrounds and have developed on varied lines of reason:

(a) Church of the Nazarene .