

in regard to the particular interest of Christianity in the areas of:

- the truth of the Gospel
- the integrity of the church
- the mission of the Christian community
- the historic reality of Christian faith

(2) Historical development...loosely sketched

(a) contributing factors:

--the Enlightenment and the subsequent preferment of the academic to the revelatory. There were few who, like Locke, could keep both items in separate compartments of the mind, and accept them together! The major items in this were:

---rationalism as a thought system

---Darwinism as an interpretation of life and a methodology in science.

---Hegelianism as a means of thought that a method for establishing truth or, better yet, truthful procedures.

--Pietistic life ideals...we are not going to pick on this but it is a fact that in an area where reason is either over-emphasized or under-emphasized the reactionary process is more severe. Pietism tends to under-emphasize and makes it appear that ignorance is a virtue...the reaction is predictably a poor one.

--Dialectic thinking: the idea and method has merit but the concept of having no absolutes is not healthy from a Christian perspective.

--Philosophical advance:

--Social unrest...always more of an issue in repressive societies or in areas where modes of thinking are minimized. It quickly ties itself to religious ideals since religion ought to be at least a friend of the people!

--Ecclesiastical lethargy...when those of the church community forget the admonitions of Paul in Acts 20, etc., with regard to the nature of the foes and difficulties that will beset the church in the passage of time.