

These are the major factors in the development of modern unbelief as we view them. We have not noted spiritual forces that work in the background, these are hard to define. But the difficulties of the church in the day which we live did not just happen but progressively unfolded along these lines and each point had some contribution to offer. It highlights the importance of spiritual vision and the outliving of truth. Nothing does more to prepare the church for decline than spiritual passivity and a satisfaction with the status quo.

(b) Steps in the expression of modern unbelief and its development in the ecclesiastical community:

(1) Theological ease (as in our previous paragraph.

(2) Tolerance

(3) Acceptance

(4) Redirection.

These steps lead to the maturing of modern unbelief in the ecclesiastical arena. They do not need a lot of explanation except to note that when one gets to "d" the career of the body is completely redirected and will await a revolution or massive schism to return it to the area of interest of earlier periods and expressions.

(c) Sorry that I erred on my margins in the foregoing material! But this one is correct and this is an estimate of the present state of affairs regarding modern unbelief and the churches:

--the world of denominations: we hate an emphasis on sectarianism but one of the reasons for many denominations is the development of modern unbelief...it has forced changes in the ecclesiastical structures that result in the development of newly named bodies to preserve the heritage of Scripture. Our focus will come to the particular denominations in a few pages.

--church agencies...a proliferation of church related agencies to handle all sorts of problems that should probably be not a part of church work in the first place.

--church world spirit...

--evangelical reaction