

b. Theological Inclusivism

(1) Defining the term: By inclusivism we mean a theology that does not make doctrinal determinations the bound of fellowship or establishment. The theological base is opened as broadly as possible so that all persons of a religious disposition may be able to find lodging therein. Naturally there are some boundaries but inclusivism seeks to eliminate as many as possible by making the theological system undefineable. This is my own analysis and therefore subject to some partial presentation and mildly prejudicial understanding but the ideas are stated about right for what they are.

--The reasons behind inclusivism are kindred to the ideas of "oneness" and "one-worldness" as well and the concepts of the brotherhood of man ideal.

--The results of inclusivism are that the bodies so affected lose any coherency of ideal or goal and become melting pots for a poorly defined end. We suspect that the "one world" aim (perhaps unwittingly) is the world church spoken of in the Revelation context.

--There are degrees of inclusivism and varieties of expression. Some are "faith" inclusivists..making a test of saving faith but nothin else. Some are polity inclusivists while others are potential inclusivists who have not seen clearly what the danger in the practice is. A good study on this line may be seen in Quebedeaux, THE WORLDLY EVANGELICALS, where with a little reading between the lines one can see how some of the "faith" inclusivists have been pulled into a degree of inclusivism in which they feel uncomfortable but in which they are not sure what to do.

(2) Regarding both liberalism and modernism

These are both inclusivistic in that they do not adhere to a truth standard but they are not systems of theology and for that reason we do not treat them here. We have defined them earlier and made a few notes on influence but while every liberal, et al., will have a personal theological involvement, the group as a group does not have this. What we mean is that there is no prescribed creed for liberalism hence it does not develop itself as a theological entity.

(3) Neo Orthodoxy

We define this ideology as the attempt to recreate an orthodox expression by a committed exegesis without dependence on historical accuracy or Divine inspiration. It is the outgrowth of the theological treatments of Karl Barth and his reaction to the extreme liberalism of his day. Barth gave credence to