

- g. A quick survey of some smaller bodies:
- (1) The Mennonite fellowships
 - (2) The Federated Churches
 - (3) The Ethnic bodies

Please forgive me for being cursory at this point. You will quickly see that there is hardly a body known historically that has not been affected in one way or another by theological unbelief and liberalism. Even to the smallest groups (such as the 7th Day Baptists) the concept of liberalistic theology has sought to intertwine itself with the true faith. Today we do see a resurgency of the evangelical position. In many areas it is hard to see what it will eventually produce in the older orders or how the major bodies will deal with it. So far the most positive assessments have shown the development of a number of newer and more committed bodies.

3. Summary on Modern Unbelief: Methods and Progress

Modern unbelief, as we have consistently defined it, is the great bulwark of theological foundations for the ecumenical movement--which we have not yet discussed. It is needed for the great theological compromises needed before a leveling of faith ideals can be attained and theological exclusivism offset. Here are some summary notes looking at the methods of modern unbelief and these are amply illustrated in the histories we have more recently discussed.

a. It works best in a background of spiritual lethargy where the doctrines are neither taught nor lived with any forcefulness. A vigorous and active church is the better way to avoid it as long as the vigor is marked with awareness of problems and concerns itself with the correct precedents.

b. It generally makes its first infiltration in the educational institutions. What is done in these takes about a generation to filter out to the general supporting public and by that time those trained under the insurgent ideals can defend the areas of learning. The institution is usually badly infected before there is any positive diagnosis of the disease.

c. It appeals for broadening of doctrinal acceptance in the body as a next course. I am not saying this is always or necessarily bad...some bodies are hopelessly narrow to start with and this sets the precedent for a difficult easing in time to come. But all such appeals must be studied in the light of the Scripture to determine that they are not counter-productive to what the church wishes to be.