

in a harmonistic fashion.

(5) The eternal city analogy...Hebrews 12

The idea that we have all been brought to a central place in point and time.

(6) The Old Testament camp analogy..

There was only one camp of the faithful grouped around the tabernacle and the presence of God.

These concepts all demonstrate the essential oneness that is the basic picture of the people of God. We are not told, in the Scripture, how this oneness is to be physically established or maintained. It seems to be assumed. That ruptures in the body were not desired would be an observation that is self apparent. That they probably cannot be avoided seems to be an accepted setting as well. That the physical unity is to be maintained at all costs is voided, if by nothing else, by the division of Israel and Judah, a division that God will someday end but which God, in effect, created to show His will and judgment on the evil workings of Solomon.

Nevertheless, an analysis of the Biblical material will give no comfort to those who are divisive for the sake of being divisive. Neither will it give much help to those who cluster themselves about one aspect of truth as a focus or rallying point. The totality of the body is in view in the Biblical passages and any teaching that loses the perspective of the totality of the body seems wrong.

What ecumenists do not take into account is the manner in which this unity is to be enacted and the foundational biblical grounds for unity. The commitment of the World Council of Churches is to the "acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as God and Saviour" as noted by Cavert in ON THE ROAD TO CHRISTIAN UNITY, p. 104. But the question asked in our circles is...what do these words mean if the book from which they are taken is not given an authoritative and decisive role in determine truth. The answer is that they do not mean very much. Several demonical spirits in the New Testament gave correct identification of the Lord Jesus but they (the demonic spirits) were neither "saved" nor "Christian" in any sense of the terms. James tells us that the devils believe in God and tremble but it does not do them much good. The Biblical background materials mean very little to the modern movement when many of its participants and workers feel that the message was humanistically originated and that the God of the New Testament differs in character from the God of the Old Testament.

We who are evangelicals, however, ought to look hard at the