

Biblical materials. It may well be that while we are critical of the ecumenical movement for not holding to the pattern of Scripture, we have not been so obedient ourselves and our statements of receiving the authority of the Word may not be as true in practice as given in creeds.

b. A quick note on schisms and division is the body:

(1) The prediction of such...Acts 20, et al.

One should note in particular where the schismatic forces would originate, how they are described, and what the attitude of the company should be to such.

(2) Early fulfillment...1 Corinthians 1

Note the personality cult development...there were surely other factors than those mentioned in Acts 20 but they must have been a bedwork for such.

(3) Developments in the early church:

(a) The Galatian problem

(b) Heretical schisms: Marcion, etc.

(c) Polity schisms: The Novatian and Donatists moves are two good areas demonstrating this. Others are witnessed also.

(d) Doctrinal schism: Arianism, Monarchianism, Montanism, etc. We cannot review 'em all...this is the modern part of history we are concerned with. But it demonstrates that divisions did not just start in our age and some have been nuisance divisions and others have been necessary in the fulfillment of the teaching of the Lord and Apostles.

(4) The Great Schism...1054

(5) The Reformation: 1520 and following.

The reformers were emphatic about not dividing the church but rather continuing the church. Calvin's tract or reforming the church is very clear to this point as is the data in his reply to Sadoleto. The point of the reformers is impossible to deny on any good sort of exegetical grounds...they were faithful to the mandate of dealing with mockery and blasphemy in the body. But what is ironic is that the attitude of the reformers to one another would soon position them as true schismatics! At the same time it would provide a technical basis for many divisions in later years...the charge being that any doctrinal/political aberration was against