

(3) The public conscience must be sensitized so that no group of citizens shall take to itself perpetual rights which it denies to others.

On the surface the goals are high-sounding. What is not delineated is what is meant by these goals or what is the theological ground underlying them. Liberal Christianity really has no gospel and the ideas sown by those who believe the Bible to be a mere fiction book may hardly be Christian at all...certainly are not the Gospel. Before the programs and goals are accepted at any sort of face value, the interested party must see what the council means by them and how it intends to carry these out.

(d) Selected activities:

(1) Bible promotion

The development and search for a common modern translation...the RSV was the general answer...and in more recent years the attempts to produce a Bible without "gender-prejudice".

(2) Legislative lobbying

Largely in regard to social issues, arms in Central America, such moves as the Sanctuary movement, etc. There is some division of ideal in the body on the abortion question, etc.

(3) Attempts at church parity

Controlling the development of new churches in community areas and the assignment of religious responsibility in everything from hospital chaplains up and down the levee.

(e) A few of the problems facing the council:

(1) The attempts to involve the Roman Church.

These have been helped since Vatican II...before that there was no participation whatsoever. But now there are joint commissions with Roman Catholic workers and Roman clergy are free to attend the more general "ministerial" groups. Rome still does not endorse the work but shows a more favorable side towards it.

(2) dissident protestant groups..

Fundamentalists still rebel at the councils ideals, lack of theological definition, and stress on social issues to the abnegation of the Gospel. Pseudo unity is regularly under attack and while a few evangelical voices have favored the council, most have not.