

(3) embarrassing committee reports...

It has not been unusual for committees to report in favor of teaching teen agers to drink in moderation, etc. While these are not necessarily the import of the Council at large they serve to highlight part of the problems in the body when it comes to values and ethics.

(4) ministerial defection...

The council suffers with a problem that most religious bodies know something about...leadership that is often not so true to the high-sounding goals as to the opportunities in life.

In short, no group is perfect and you will find the imperfections in the NCC without much trouble. But we still have evangelicals who think it is better to cooperate with anyone than to go on the revealed principles. Probably when all is said and done, that is the real modern problem in religion and something the ecumenists are counting on to sustain and support their work.

b. The International Church Council moves: The World Council of Churches.

(1) The Ideal: Ecumenism on a grander scale.

There were some evangelical attempts in this mold in the former century although they were largely "fellowship" moves and did not have legislative interests at heart. (The World's Evangelical Alliance, for example.) Many deny an attempt in the world council to develop one church but the thrust is certainly in that direction as may be seen by the dialogues on almost every theological issue in the hope of synthesis. The Scripture is not decisive in these discussions, however, and the quest for synthesis is merely a dialectic move.

(2) Two prominent leaders: The World Council and its development is almost inexplicable apart from the work of these two persons committed to the idea:

(a) John R. Mott (1865-1955)

We cannot outline his life here save to note that he was a Methodist clergyman of ecumenical proportions, a disciple of Moody who maintained in personal faith an evangelical commitment all of his life, but was active unceasingly in every conceivable way for a united expression of Christianity. In 1888 he had been the general secretary of the YMCA, had been the leader of the Student Volunteer Movement, was prominent in the 1910 Edinburgh Missionary Conference and became co-president of the WCC when it was founded. From where