

/6/ Various "brethren" bodies....

Although there is no integrated use of the word "brethren" we would include the "Grace Brethren", the "Plymouth Brethren", etc. The separatist character of these bodies is historically identifiable.

And as you might suppose, there are many smaller bodies not mentioned in these notes. You will see that separatism ideology is not without voice in our day even though when talking to some you might get the idea that there are no other voices. Our own importance, I observe, is never more meaningless than when expressed with our own tongues.

c. An Analysis of Non-Separatist Reaction

(1) Some general concepts:

This segment of our material is more difficult than the former as it has many ramifications and aspects with a lot of uncertain sounds. It has powerful appeal, however, and some great Christians have worked this way. The general historical data is the same as for our previous notations on separatism and it is not necessary to repeat this. For the most part, non-separatism has chosen to continue to work within an organism in the hope of life and the achievement of revival.

As noted earlier, non-separatists often get pushed to the point of separation. Their ideal of harmonistic working is shattered by the pushiness of modern unbelief and also by their own disillusionment at what those teachings actually impart. But the reverse is rarely true (that those who are separatist in ideal find it necessary to work in the older media) as the impact of separation and the emotional thrust therein involved are rarely affected by reversal. Separatist moves sometimes die of stagnation but rarely of reversal.

(2) Biblical ideals expressed in non-separatism

Any attempt to understand these movements must come to grips with the following ideas and most of them are common in all the subscribing circles. We do not mean to minimize these items but we do think they are often eiseged to avoid an unpleasant alternative course.

(a) The church is one and should not be divided politically and begun anew over and over.

(b) The nature of love that brethren should feel towards one another should inhibit their being schismatic or