

own causes irreparably in some cases. To explain this variety and rush of reaction is not easy but these conditioning factors have some merit as being considered causes for this situation:

a. Lack of unity among evangelicals in general

We are not talking about structure but emotional and spiritual unity. It includes a lack of goal and purpose far more than one of organization. Included is a lack of common cause in which the individual preacher-teachers, etc., see the large cause of the Gospel more than their own individual reputations. This may be a bit harsh and may be hard to prove as well, but it seems that way to me. Without preaching on it now, it seems more important that we each have our own show than that we should lose something by supporting one put together by someone else.

b. The lack of agreement about attitude and issue

This can be seen in the varied opinions about ecumenical evangelism, the right to life issues, etc. Absolute agreement is probably not needed on every point but hostility of ideal definitely does not help.

c. Preoccupation with secondary nature things.

This, it has seemed to me, is a giant factor. While liberals burn the Bible, evangelicals burn one another over what version of the Bible they read. It is true that in an age of conflict every issue appears to be one of force and merit. But we should learn to distinguish the relative merit of issues and captivate on those that are chiefly in the major interest areas. Part of the problem is that what looks big to one looks small to another. I know of no way of ending that assessment but the difficulty is that we often do not so much as look at the magnitude of the entities.

d. The deep seated distrust syndrome of fundamentalist mentality and ministry.

It is rather frightening to see the fact that among fundamentalists there is often found an isolationist philosophy that makes the leaders of the church unwilling to work with and for one another. Probably the same mental quirks are found in other places but this is the one we know so well. The attitude is... "If I'm not doing it it is not being done well or at least as it should be done." This sort of feeling inhibits trust and combined action.

e. The failure of para-church agencies.

When this occurs it suggests that inter-church moves will not succeed and evangelicals become fearful of trying such. It is a