

VI.2.a Modernism

Modernism/Liberalism Debates

In our discussion of religious idea in the last century we made notice of the foundations of liberalism and/or modernism (they are not the same but may easily be lumped together in this consideration). These are internal problems to the church and the defining of standards and the challenging of same constituted a major debating area throughout this time. Two factors entered into it:

1) the concept of the role of science and scientific theorizing and its influence in society and the church..an easy threat to Biblical and ecclesiastical authority

and 2) the needs of society and the conflict incumbent to the ideas of the "social gospel".

Liberal forces have generally argued that the older theologies have been unresponsive to these issues and the older theologies have argued that liberal forces have capitulated to them. On the whole the great public issue battles were won by the liberals but the war is in the steady process of being lost...liberalism in any form does not have much to offer the people.

VI.2.b. Theologies

Expressions of New Theologies

While it is true that there is nothing new under the sun, theological notions circulate and give the appearance of being new as they are expressed in varying cultures. This age under study quickly produced a number of theological ideals which are of interest to the historian. The particular formulations of them are discussed in our theology classes but the fact of their existence is noted at this point in the historical process.

Barthianism

Probably better identified under the terms of "Neo-Orthodoxy" "Crisis theology", etc., the ideas came from the fertile mind of Karl Barth (1886-1968) the most influential theological thinker of the century.