

I quite agree that there is a tendency among many of those who glory in the name "Fundamentalist" to put great emphasis on very minor points. I have also found such an emphasis among many individuals who would not take the name of Fundamentalist.

I feel that all who truly love the Lord and believe in the great fundamental doctrines should stand together and help one another. This includes many who call themselves "Fundamentalists" and also many who call themselves "Evangelicals". Personally I would like to claim both names for myself.

Among the adherents of almost any science it is rather common to hear of those who are expert on the fundamentals of that science, in contrast to those "who are weak on the fundamentals." Properly understood the term should not designate one who puts great emphasis on minor issues... but rather one who puts his emphasis on the great foundational truths of God's Word

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During my life I have had the experience of seeing a complete reversal of attitude in the leadership of a number of great denominations that at one time were solidly devoted to the Word of God. I have seen the control of a number of them taken over by men who did not even believe in a personal God. Usually the change begins with doubts about the dependability of Scripture, then goes on to deny the miracles of Christ or the historical statements of the Old Testament, and eventually has reached a point where most of the seminaries approved by the denomination were training men in unbelief. Over a period of years graduates of such institutions have gained greater and greater control of the particular denomination and have made it difficult for men who believe in the Lord to be admitted to its ministry. Under such circumstances the people in the pew are apt to become confused. They feel that they should put confidence in their minister, and yet they wish to believe in the Word of God. They see their children drifting away from the church and losing interest, since they are not receiving any spiritual food. When a denomination reaches such a point many think it their duty to separate from it and to try to establish a new organization that will be true to the great foundational teachings of God's Word. In some cases this effort succeeds. In others the leaders of the new organization become so interested in getting absolute uniformity on minor points that they accomplish very little in the end.