

LETTER 70
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HEART DISEASE IN CHRIST'S BODY

I was greatly pleased by Jack Van Impe's chapter on the unity of Christ's body (pp.95-105) and by the one on the importance of showing Christian love (pp.67-75). If these and other similar portions were available by themselves I would ardently wish that they might be distributed as widely as possible.

How it must grieve the heart of Jesus to see believers criticizing other Christians for differences over secondary points of doctrine, and over matters of dress or length of hair!

Yet it is equally important not to overlook the other side of the picture.

During my life I have had the sad experience a number of times of seeing a school that at one time had been completely devoted to the Lord's service but had later turned away from the desires of its founders and became a powerful force for destroying the faith of young Christians. Usually this radical change began with the coming of a new faculty member who seemed so gracious and kindly that everyone felt that his Christian spirit set an example for all. Little by little he would begin to ridicule Christian ideas and to present "higher critical" attitudes in his classes. As his devoted followers graduated, many of them would take advanced work at universities where their anti-Christian ideas would be amplified and strengthened, and some of these would return to join him in teaching. Within a few years the whole institution would be completely changed. A similar catastrophe has occurred in dozens of colleges and theological seminaries.

If anyone speaks against such an individual he is sure to be accused of showing an unchristian spirit.

One of our recent entering classes at Biblical Theological Seminary included a man in his middle thirties who said that as a young man he had entered a well known theological seminary