

opinion of those who are working in a particular field. But the question is, just how many of them really are working on it? And how close is the consensus and what actual differences are there?

I have also found that in religion the intolerance of people who are not in a position of being first-hand scholars is generally greater. I have a friend who studied at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago thirty years ago. It was then one of our most liberal institutions, that is, liberal in the sense of being anti-Biblical (which really is not liberal at all; it is a misuse of the word "liberal," but it is the way the word is often used). Later on he took some work in the Divinity School of the University of Southern California, in Los Angeles, and there the teachers had been prepared at the University of Chicago Divinity School. The views taught were practically identical in the two institutions. The University of Chicago Divinity School was one of the great scholarly institutions of its type, but the University of Southern California was not in that class at all. "Well," he said, "it was very interesting to note that while the views were just about the same, the dogmatism in the University of Southern California was twice as great as that in the University of Chicago, because the men who were doing original work in this field could see its difficulties and there would be differences of opinion in one place or another, while the men in the other school, who were working at second-hand rather than at first-hand, took whatever these great scholars said as being the last word on the subject. They were more dogmatic and more sure of themselves than the men who were really working on it and saw the difficulties. So if you find that ten thousand so-called scholars who take what somebody else says and repeat it are in total agreement, it proves absolutely nothing. It is far more important to find five men who are actually studying and working on a field and see to how great an extent they agree. So your consensus of opinion is a matter of importance, but it is a matter that has to be examined carefully to see just what kind of a consensus it is.

Recently I heard a professor in Crozier Seminary make a statement. He said, "People say that the synoptic gospels are three witnesses, but actually they are not. They are only one witness. Mark wrote a Gospel, and Matthew and Luke copied from Mark. So, they are just