

Atlantic states, and there were comparatively few of these people--some from one of these groups and some from the other and they got together and started forming Christian churches over here. They wanted to keep up fellowship with both of the groups in Scotland. Then when the group in Scotland heard that the church over here had in it people that had come from the church that took the burgher oath in Scotland, they said, We cannot have fellowship with you because you have among you people who are connected with this church that is willing to take the burgher oath!

There was no burgher oath in America at all. No such thing. But the reminiscence of this thing in Scotland led them to refuse to have fellowship with them here. We have tremendous groups in this country which have historical roots, to which they pay so much attention and neglect the central things of Scripture. Don't claim to neglect them, but do in their emphasis when it comes to working with others.

For students in seminary this is a very definite problem, and I think one that should be faced before you come to graduation. What group are you going to work with after you get out? I remember when I was in college, the students used to talk about what are we going to do when we finish college? Some said, O well, there will be a job. Don't worry about it. And I remember one fellow said, In college it's as if you were on a boat and you were just travelling along, and then all the sudden you come to the end and you walk the plank and you are out in the ocean! And you grab the first spar that you see! And one fellow said, Yes, and that's usually the telephone company. In our particular college, a great many of our graduates when into the telephone company. But they had little idea of what they were going to do when they finished college.

When you finish the seminary course you will begin looking about for your field of labor, you are going to find people who are very insistent that you agree with them on every particular form or ceremony. This particular detail of their attitude which may be shared by perhaps a fourth, maybe even a third of Christians, but which certainly is not shared by as many as 3/4 of truly believing Christians.

You are going to find you want to work with other people and you need to have a decision as to what group you are going to work with. Will it just be what your history is? What your background is? Who you happened to know before you came here? Who led you to the Lord? Or is it going to be where you can serve the Lord most effectively. I believe it should be that. Not what group do I agree with on all the little possible points. But with what group can I serve the Lord most effectively? If you are going to make a big point of some of the secondary issues, try to think them through before your last semester. Try to think them through and decide what sort a stand you are going to take.

Personally I don't see why we have to have Christians divided on over things that are not clear in the Scripture.