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Pinnock's Article

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I have just read an article by Clark H. Pinnock called "Inspiration and Authority: A Truce Proposal for the Evangelicals." This is in the issue of Kerygma published by the Fellowship of Witness in Sewickley, Pennsylvania (Winter 1977). This article says it is reprinted by permission but does not say what it is reprinted from. X

The article begins with a very proper point. We need to be addressing our efforts to answering scholars who reject Biblical infallibility outright and not to have unnecessary divisions among true evangelicals. I thoroughly agree with this. I do not believe that it is necessary to believe in inerrancy in order to be saved. I believe that one can be a very fine Christian and accept the Bible as authoritative in whatever he finds taught there for his life even if he has mistaken ideas about the dependability of the Bible in historical and scientific matters.

However, I believe that any teacher of the Bible, any pastor, or anyone who has a position of influence should have a clear position on Biblical authority or he is bound to get off into unBiblical attitudes. So I would agree with Pinnock that Biblical authority is tremendously important, ^{even at points} ~~though not necessary for salvation.~~ Pinnock says that there is an impressive unanimity on the subject of biblical infallibility among evangelicals but a difference about inerrancy. I'm not at all sure that he is altogether right on this. My guess is that while some may not be very clear in their thinking, my guess is that many at least of those who would say they believe in infallibility but deny inerrancy, would mean that they believe that the Bible is infallible in a certain closely delimited sphere of spiritual teaching and it may have errors whenever it speaks of history, science or other matters. This again is not necessarily vital for salvation, but I feel that it is tremendously important for Christian witness and particularly