

(1) <sup>1</sup> Theology and creeds are fallible and subject to revision in the light of the revelation in Scripture and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

(2) We are always asking what the Living God whom we know through Jesus Christ revealed in scripture is doing now.

## 2) The Problem of Authority

a) The Bible is the standard of what is genuinely Christian. But whose interpretation of the Bible is authoritative?

b) Creeds and Confessions are various churches' interpretation of what the Bible teaches. Some principles about creeds

i) They are rooted in concrete historical settings, often a crisis...Barman: Christ is Lord not Hitler

ii) They are a form of worship: they state in whom we believe, whom we trust and follow

iii) They are intended to guide the proper interpretation of Scripture as well as its preaching and witness.

iv) They are polemical; they defend against attacks from without and within

v) They are confessions of the church

vi) They are intended to be manuals of instruction

vii) They are limited and fallible...subordinate standards.

They are to be taken seriously but are always subordinate to the word of God.

c) How free are we to disagree

i) We must walk a fine line between accepting everything they teach and saying everyone is free to believe whatever he or she believes in them.

ii) We are "relatively bound"

(1) Christ has promised to be with the church as it teaches and interprets scripture. This forms a check on our personal opinions

(2) The Holy Spirit which is working now was also working in the church when the creeds were formed.

iii) We are "relatively free"

(1) Creeds are the work of fallible human beings

(2) The Spirit is working now as well as then.

(3) Creeds are open to change

3) The Idea of God

a) Our god is whatever is most important to us.

b) Our god is that for which we are willing to sacrifice anything and everything

i) This might be our own comfort, success, or our own security.

ii) It might be our family and its welfare

iii) It might be our country, our church, or a political or social ideal

c) Christians affirm that there is one God and that all other "gods" are idols.

4) How Do We Find God?

a) General Revelation...God known in the light of nature and in the works of creation.