

**Lecture 14: Modernism & Unity**

*Father we want to thank You for this beautiful day, for the crispness of the air and the beauty of the leaves and the bright sky, for the glory of all You've made. We pray that You'll be with us in this class, that You'll teach us, that as we think about how Schaeffer wrestled with the issues of forty years ago, that they may be a challenge to us as we wrestle with the issues of our day. We ask it for Jesus' sake, Amen.*

**Review and Introduction:** Having begun an analysis of Dr. Schaeffer's article "Modernism, Barthianism and the Ecumenical Movement" in the last lecture, Professor Barrs concludes that analysis in this lesson and then discusses aspects of Schaeffer's involvement in the fight against Modernism which he later regretted. Practical lessons regarding how to relate to believers who differ with us on various issues are also shared.

**Modernism & Unity**

## I. Three Phases of Modernism: Phase Three: Control

## II. Schaeffer's Conclusion

- A. Modernists want evangelicals to stay quiet
- B. Schaeffer's challenges to evangelicals
  - 1. Stay in and practice discipline
  - 2. Practice "separation in reverse" ("Modernism..."—page 42)

## III. Schaeffer's Regrets

- A. The harsh mentality of those who separated
- B. Attitudes toward those who stayed in the major denominations
- C. The way he expressed himself

## IV. Concern for the Positive

- A. Whole lectures in later years
- B. Remained committed to church purity—*The Church Before the Watching World*
- C. Plead with British separatists; stood strongly against "second degree" separation
- D. Personal convictions and relating to others (answer to question)
- E. Schaeffer's commitment to the ICCC never negative
- F. Article "The Need of Europe"
  - 1. Material need
  - 2. Political need
  - 3. Spiritual need
    - a. Widespread proclamation of the Gospel
    - b. Unity

## V. The Priority of Unity and Levels of True Ecumenism

- A. First level: Recognition of true believers whatever their affiliation
- B. Second level: Preparedness to work together
- C. Third level: Formal union wherever possible

## VI. The Priority of Humility