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Dr. MacRae interviewed by James Neher 12-14-78

problem from your observation?

You have given me two excellent questions. You said,

AAM: I would say that it is a very important problem.

No. 1, some of us who were happy about the doctrinal insights of the Reformers are unhappy about what we see as reactionist type of mind.

hyper-calvinism. Right there I'd like to stop for a second.

Question: What circles are most likely to be affected by it?

The word hyper-calvinism properly interpreted means taking

the doctrines of divine grace and of God's election and of carrying them to the point where they reduce man to a puppet

and make a mere -- there is nothing you can do to help, you are just part of a thing that goes on like a moving picture.

There is a lot of excitement in the faces but it's all sham!

That is what's properly called hyper-calvinism and most calvinists

consider that as heretical. I don't really know anybody who would admit to holding a view like that.

But the word hyper-calvinism is often used falsely by and about people who take the true doctrines of Calvinism but put such a stress that they twist all other doctrines out of proportion. You see what I mean? I think we want to watch the distinction there carefully.

Neher: Are you suggesting that we don't use the term? In order to defer to those who are strongly Calvinistic and twist the doctrines?

AAM: I think it would be better not to because there is this hyper-calvinism which they would indignantly deny that they hold, and some things they say sound like it, but they would indignantly deny it and they would say other things that would prove they really didn't mean it. So if we can get another term, I think it would be better. I don't know what it would be, but there is that danger in that term.