

1-30-79

Dr. MacRae Interviewed by Him Neher

You have two questions. The first relates to a statement of Schaeffer that it is absolutely necessary to have discipline with regard to those who depart from the historic Christian faith, that we must stand for the holiness of God. But he goes on to say the Christian must show forth the love of God to those with whom he differs. Thirty-five years ago in the Presbyterian crisis in the U.S. we forgot that. We did not speak with love about those with whom we differ and we've been paying a high price for it ever since. We must love men including the existential theologian and we must visibly love them as people when we speak and write about them, and show it before the church and the world."

I think that is a matter on which you cannot say "we did not" because who is the "we". There were varying attitudes by different people. We ~~will~~ say that. But we will say that it is == we had a great deal among people in those days, among people who were modernists and wanted to destroy the faith, there was a lot of talk about "you're not showing love", and there was a lot of talk that really amounted to the general (universal) fatherhood of God. Just be ~~good~~ good to everybody and that's all there is to it!

In contrast --- I would say that was taken by a lot who were trying to destroy the faith. Then there were those real Christians who were influenced by that, and who were more interested in whether you have a loving attitude than whether you stand for the truth. Then among those who stand for the truth, there is a natural tendency to react from that and I believe I never reacted from it and I am quite sure that there were many who did not, but there were certainly some who did. It reminds me of my first year at Westminster when I was asked to give a ordination sermon in