

Thus Satan gradually changed things because people didn't stand for the Word of God, but also because those who did stand were so ready to get excited over matters that were non-essential and often over matters that were secondary.

That, I believe, is one of Satan's devices which has caused tremendous harm in the Christian church. It is so easy to go from one extreme to the other on this matter. We should make no compromise with the denial of the absolute dependability of God's Word, and the great central Christian doctrines. But to make divisions among Christians over non-essentials, is I believe one of Satan's clever devices.

Another clever device of Satan here is an impractical insistence on uniformity. I don't believe there should be one big church. I think that would be a mistake. It would mean too much power in anybody's hands. But I do believe there is great blessing in having a group of churches standing together and helping one another, and particularly when the pastor dies or moves, if there are other churches that are sympathetic and have the same viewpoint and would be helpful in getting a new pastor, and can see what a man really believes much more clearly than the average layman of the congregation will and help them in that way, there is a tremendous benefit in that.

It is so easy to go from the one extreme of the effort toward a great big ecumenical church to the other extreme of having every little group stand by itself. Particularly in these days when people are moving so much. If people get entirely into one view right down the line on all the non-essential points as well as the essentials, and then they move to another area, and they don't know where to go to church there, there they would be so much better off with a nation-wide fellowship which would enable them to know where they could go and get the teaching that was similar to the teaching they had received before and where they would find people of like precious faith to themselves.

I believe it is foolish to have little groups differing over minor points, and often simply over points of history. There was a situation 300 years ago, when in Scotland there was the law that put through that the people had to take in the church in order to hold office in the church, they had to take what they called the burgher oath. This was the oath that they would show certain loyalty to certain things in connection with the state which many of the people felt one should not properly promise.

So this denomination in Scotland divided into the anti-burgher people and the pro-burgher people who said it is alright to take the oath, it doesn't hurt and those who said we cannot be in a church where they take the burgher oath.

Then from both groups there were people who moved over to this country--to Virginia and other parts in the middle-