

Item 1. Here it has been asserted that the author of The Holy War programs does not hold to the Westminster Confession of Faith. It is further asserted that the author of the series said that her theological position would have no bearing on the material that she was writing.

Opinion 1. As for the allegation, the author herself must be asked as to its truth or falsity. The author of the series would also have to be asked if she did in fact intend to say that her theological position would have no bearing on the material which she was writing.

The important things here to be noted are: 1. Obviously, for the benefit of all concerned, in the future only those who hold to the Westminster Confession should be commissioned to write for the Overcomers. (However, if the Overcomers' Board wished, it is conceivable that it might have commissioned someone to write a series who agreed with the Confession ninety-nine percent, if the one percent of disagreement is neither a fundamental truth nor a matter which will be dealt with in the lessons. Yet prudence shows such a policy to be a needless risk and unwise except in extraordinary and temporary circumstances.)

2. Since The Holy War series is an existing fact already, upon examination I do not see any teachings of ~~heresy~~ gross heresy within it, but rather an attempt to glorify the Lord and His word. However, various specifications will be dealt with below. Here, however, before examining the detailed charges, let us note that literature prepared for teenage youth programs cannot be expected to contain the theological precision found in treatises on dogmatics. The function of such programs is neither to ~~replace~~ replace nor duplicate the most necessary catechetical instruction in doctrine given in Sunday School. Thus ~~the charge made~~ (letter to Mrs. MacRae, April 17, 1967) that the Bible Presbyterian Church already has "adequate" material in the Confession of Faith and in the Catechisms with its implication that such Overcomer literature as The Holy War is unnecessary and inadequate, is in my opinion a misleading observation. If the function of this material is to provide our Church with another catechism or confession, then truly it is most inadequate! However, as material for youth groups I think it to be ~~helpful~~ helpful.

Nothing in the above, of course, should be construed as implying that theological errors in Overcomers material should be winked at. On the contrary, such should be changed. Yet again, I have hardly read a theological lesson in my life of any length which I considered perfect. The Westminster Assembly took years to formulate the relatively short confession which is ours--and they had a great number of great and godly minds. It is simply impossible to demand the same type of exactness from youth material. ~~Were we to scrutinize every phrase of every sentence from the sermons of our own ministers, I am of the opinion that we would often discover minor inconsistencies and theological errors which if reconsidered by the minister, would be reworded.~~

Item 2. Here it is charged that "The thrust of each lesson addresses the students as though they were all outside of the Church:..." It is further stated in the charge that, "The purpose of the Overcomers... is to build up believers; not to evangelize unbelievers" (emphasis mine).

Opinion 2. Upon reading the book I am of the opinion that ~~the thrust of each lesson does not in fact address itself to the students as if they~~