



Statement by Dr. Allan A. MacRae - October 1967

The Presbytery of California has asked me to prepare a statement about the difference between the Bible Presbyterian Church and two other bodies: the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Evangelical Synod).

Having been closely connected with the various incidents involved in the separation from these two bodies, it would be easy for me to recall personal differences, and actions of which I did not approve. However, such matters of history appear to me to be best forgotten. The important question is not what happened in the course of the division, but what were the causes of this division, and whether those causes are still operative today. Therefore it impresses me as best simply to speak of the vital differences that separate us from these two Christian bodies.

First, let me say that we recognize them as Christian brethren. Both bodies at present, we believe, hold solidly to the inerrancy of Scripture, and to the great fundamental doctrines of the faith. Both are separated from the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, and most of the other bodies that are striving to produce one great world church. To this extent we feel a fellowship with these churches, yet our differences from them are very definite.

The most important difference that we have with either of these churches is the fact that our church has always been determined, not merely to be separated from apostasy and from anti-Christian tendencies, but actively to oppose them. Both of these other groups have continually refused to cooperate in any way with the work of the International Council of Christian Churches or of the American Council of Christian Churches--the only international and national organizations that are actively engaged in opposing apostasy and in trying to protect religious liberty here and throughout the world. This is an extremely important difference.