

some representatives from outside the Roman Empire. But the idea of the ecumenical council was that the council represented all the Christians, to come together and to decide what the truth was on certain matters. That was the original idea of an ecumenical council. And the word today is used in quite a different sense. The word ecumenical, the ecumenical movement today, is not like these councils, a movement to try to get all Christians to come together and decide what the truth is ~~is~~ on a certain matter. But the ecumenical movement today is a movement to get all people who use the name of Christian together into one big organization on a platform on which they can all agree, which will be nothing that ~~may~~ any of them differ from. It is the exact opposite of the ecumenical councils, even though it uses the same term. And of course the ecumenical idea that all Christians should get together and then get what they decide is the ~~the~~ truth and all Christians should ~~follow~~ follow, is an idea which had a great hold on people's minds. But there is nothing in the Bible ~~that~~ to suggest that it is necessarily, or even necessarily right. God may work through a large gathering of Christians, but ~~He~~ He may work as He did through Athanasius when he stood against the world. ~~The~~ The truth is not decided by how many stand for it, but by ~~what~~ what the Word of God says.

And, of course, that is one of Luther's great steps forward. Luther saw that the indulgence traffic was wrong. And Luther said, this is wrong, we cannot admit it. And then his opponents said, oh but the pope sanctions it, and he said that he didn't believe it. The pope wouldn't sanction anything wicked like this and so they brought him ~~proof~~ proof that the pope had sanctioned it, and then Luther appealed from the pope ill-informed to the pope better-informed. And he sent a full statement of it to the pope and the pope condemned Luther's statement, and so Luther said, well, the pope differs with the Word of God, the pope must be wrong, I appeal to an ecumenical council/ to be called to settle ~~this~~ dispute. And then the pope said, I excommunicate, I declared anybody to be excommunicated who appeals from the pope to an ecumenical council. And that was one of the charges against Luther, that he appealed to ~~an~~ an ecumenical council to be called. But there were many in Europe who did not believe in the