

Intellectual Climate and New Theology

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I. Introduction.

A. The line of despair means that men have come to a place where they are no longer able to draw a line that explains all of life.

B. Before this philosophy had an ideal that encompassed all of reality and life.

II. The levels of despair.

A. The new theology gives the illusion of communication.

B. The first act of despair is accepting the dichotomy.

1. Modern man has become the uneducated man, which is the first step of despair.

2. He sees rationality on a human basis. He is merely a machine.

C. The second act of despair is that they cannot live under rationality--it is embracing the mysterious.

1. The mentality and expectation was to separate the unity of nature and grace.

2. Rationality has been put into contrast with faith under existentialism.

III. The thrust of neo-orthodoxy is faith versus reason.

A. Evil must be an intrinsic part of what man and reality is in his dilemma if reason and faith are separate.

B. Jesus Christ is the solution to man's dilemma.

C. The difference between fundamentalism and neo-orthodoxy has to do not simply with their view of Scripture but their view of how to know.

Application questions:

1. Explain the differences between neo-orthodoxy and fundamentalism?

2. Why does neo-orthodoxy attempt to make a divide between faith and reason?

3. How does the divide between faith and reason end in despair?
