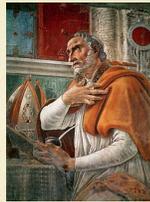


“Stäbler”

- Coercion versus Voluntarism
- Staff Carriers
 - The Waldensians
 - The Bohemian Brethren
 - The Donatists

“Stäbler” (Continued)

- Augustine of Hippo
 - Biographical information
 - Influence on Constantinians
 - The Donatist argument
 - What was Augustine’s response?



“Stäbler” (Continued)

“I hear that you are quoting that which is recorded in the Gospel, that when the seventy followers went back from the Lord they were left to their own choice in this wicked and impious desertion and that He said to the twelve remaining, ‘Do you not also want to go?’ But what you fail to say is that at that time the Church was only just beginning to burst forth from the newly planted seed and that the saying had not as yet been fulfilled in her ‘All kings shall fall down before Him, all nations shall serve Him.’ It is in proportion to the more enlarged fulfillment of this prophecy that the Church now wields greater power – so that she may now not only invite but also compel men to embrace that which is good.”

- Augustine

“Stäbler” (Continued)

“Here we have an early representation of the notion that the Church of Christ was intended by its Founder to enter into a situation radically different from the one depicted in the New Testament. Here we have the beginnings of the notion, which reigned supreme in the minds of men all through medieval times, that part way into the Christian era a change was intended by the King of the Church Himself – a change whereby the world of apostolic times would become obsolete. This change was identified with the Constantinian innovation. This idea set forth by Augustine controlled the thought and the theology of European man all through medieval times. It led to all sorts of theological absurdities – as, for example, that the Great Commission was intended for the pre-Constantinian era and had with the Constantinian change been fulfilled.”

- Verduin

“Stäbler” (Continued)

- Does this sort of thing continue today?
- Verduin’s 1953 example
- Protestant traditionalism?

Questions?
