

# In Search of Unity

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We in the Karns congregation place considerable emphasis in being balanced in our teaching and in living the Christian life.

Among those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God, there is a wide spectrum of views regarding teaching and practice. Generally, those who are most vocal in their positions come from the most conservative and the most liberal elements. The conservative elements are said to over emphasize doctrine and those on the liberal side similarly are said to over emphasize love and tolerance. How can we be united with those who hold and practice this wide spectrum of views and interpretation of scripture? It seems the basis for discussing unity is found in Ephesians 4:1-16 and in particular, Ephesians 4:15, which reads *“but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things unto Him who is the head-Christ.”*

The truth, found in God’s word, is the source of all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). It is the basis of what we believe and how we live our lives. Simply stated, the “truth” is non-negotiable. On the other hand, love is an essential part of every aspect of our lives. Love defines our relationship with God and how we interact with our family, our brothers and sisters in Christ, our neighbors and even our enemies. The Law and Prophets are summed up by love according to Jesus in Matthew 22:37-39. Without love we are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:3).

How can we incorporate these two essential, non-compromising, all inclusive concepts into our teaching and daily living? Impossible? Yes and no! We can never achieve a perfect balance because we cannot live sinless lives. However, the way to approach this goal of being balanced is also found in Ephesians 4:15, that *‘is to grow up in all things unto Christ’*. Being balanced means not only obeying God’s demands but obeying in the spirit and with the attitude that is consistent with His teaching. To use an over simplified statement: we must simply live Christ-like lives. It follows that to be fully obedient, to be Christ-like, we must not only know God’s word – we must truly know His Son.

Now let us begin the process by doing what the Lord told Isaiah to tell Judah long ago, *Come now, and let us reason together* (Isaiah 1:18).

For the elders,  
Don Denton