

What's Behind the Sign?

After many months our new Karns Church of Christ sign will become operational this week (hopefully). This high resolution digital sign, with six feet-by-twelve feet digital display boards, will permit us to share Biblical messages and inform people in our community about the plans and activities of the Karns Church of Christ. In reality, the sign will give those traveling along the Oak Ridge highway a small window into the Lord's body in this community. What do we want people to see?

First, Jesus expects us to be a window through which others see Him and glorify our Father in heaven. Jesus said, *I am the light of the world* (Jn. 8:12a). He also said, *you are the light of the world* and we are to let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matt. 5:14,16). Of course, the true and definitive source of information about Jesus is found only in Scripture. Thus, we must be people whose faithfulness to God's word is reflected in our worship services, Bible classes, and writings.

Collectively and individually, we want to serve others. We want to exhibit a servant's attitude, putting the interest of others above our own which is often better expressed by actions than with words alone. We want to display an attitude of *esteeming others better than ourselves*. The mindset of esteeming others more highly than ourselves leads us to desire to please others and not ourselves (Rom. 15:1, 2), which promotes both peace and good relationships.

Individually, what do people see when they look at you and me, observe our actions, and hear us speak? Do they see a distinctive lifestyle characterized by the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness? Obviously, the Lord expects His disciples to show kindness and be doers of good works. Actually, the Lord expects us *to abound in good works* (1Cor. 15:58) and be *zealous for good works* (Titus 2:14).

The sign will be a big help in making people aware of the Lord's body in this community. Our attitudes, good works and love of people will encourage those in our community and beyond to consider becoming Christians and God will give the increase.

For the elders,
Don Denton