

Avoiding the Extremes

In all ministry, we must avoid
the extreme positions
of isolationism and ecumenicalism.

FUNDAMENTALISM

← Towards Phariseeism ←

Isolationist tendencies

TRUTH ← focus

SEPARATE

Emphasizes evangelism
and indoctrination

(Stresses theological teaching)

Individual leadership
(authoritarian rule)

Weak social concerns
(Reaction to social problems
is righteous anger.

Wants to do something
to expose the problem)

Emphasizes action
(theological and procedural)

Uses confrontation
(Legalistic approach to
separation from the world)

Closed-minded absolutism
(Their view is the only one
worthy of consideration)

Ephesians 4:15

"But speaking the truth in
love, may grow up into Him
in all things, which is the head,
even Christ."

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

Emphasizes sound doctrine with
proper application

(Stresses biblical principles)

Biblical leadership
(Leads by example characterized by
submission and service)

Recognizes the connection
between spiritual and
social problems.

(Strives to reach individuals)

Emphasizes spiritual life
(Doctrine practically applied by faith)

Reckons "self" dead unto sin,
but alive unto God (Rom. 6:11).
(By God's grace lives a separated life)

Open-minded towards truth
(All views are tested by Scripture.)

EVANGELICALISM

→ Towards Sadduceeism →

Ecumenical tendencies
focus → LOVE

COOPERATE

Emphasizes discipleship
and internalization

(Stresses conceptual teaching)

Group leadership
(democratic rule)

Strong social concerns
(Takes action on social problems,
becomes concerned and
wants to solve problems)

Emphasizes ideas
(intellectual and philosophical)

Uses infiltration
(Antinomianist approach to
separation from the world)

Broad-minded relativism
(All views are given equal consideration)