

Picture with me, a man in a circus who is walking on a tight rope and carrying a long stick to keep balanced. It's a delicate journey and it would be easy for him to fall off on either side. Balance is a very important thing. God calls us to love one another and that takes good balance. People have different color skin, personalities, gifts, looks, they come in different sizes and shapes, they live in different cultures, have different tastes and believe different things (even about the same scripture passages). Unfortunately, it can sometimes look more like lion taming than a tight rope walk.

As Christians, there are basic doctrines of Salvation that God's Word is very clear on, that we must hold tightly to. *(Watch you life and your doctrine closely, persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers 1Tim. 4:16)* There are other disputable matters that we may not have the answers to until heaven. There are verses that tell us to respect those who disagree with us and oppose what we believe (2Tim. 2:23-26).

1Cor. 13:9 says *we know in part.* Verse 12 says: *Now I know in part; then I shall know fully....* Only God knows everything right now and He wisely doesn't give any of His children all the answers. He knows we couldn't be trusted to know it all and walk in humility. Sometimes we want to know more to feed our egos of power, pride and control. God gave great revelations to the Apostle Paul but also gave him a thorn in his flesh to keep him humble.

As we come closer to the time of Christ's return I believe that Christians will need each other more than ever to stand strong. It is not a man-made unity based on "tolerance of everything" and the compromise of God's Word. It is coming together in Christ-like, humble submission to the Father, allowing the Holy Spirit to fill us, *...that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. John 17:21a.* It is setting aside our pride and reputation, judgmental and critical attitudes towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus said *"...May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me."* John 17:23 It is our witness to a dying world.

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My son Scott produced my 2<sup>nd</sup> album "Treasures in Heaven". We co-wrote and co-recorded the song "Fine Line". It is a song about us. We can be very different from each other and doing this album took a lot of God's grace, humility, patience and respect to work through our differences, listen to each other and come out the other side still loving each other. It was a lesson in learning to *"love one another as I have loved you"* Check out the devo for that one too!