

Tensions (potentially) avoided in many of the current streams of the church:

1. **meekness** ... the power of restraint ... and (apparent) **expressed faith**

“ I appeal to you by the gentleness and meekness of Christ”
The Apostle Paul

2. **critique** and the call to **love the whole church**

“The goal of revival is conformity to the image of Christ ...
Edwards' own final approach to the Great Awakening was to
subject it to the most rigorous critique, on the one hand, and to
solicit extraordinary prayer for its advancement, on the other.
These are strategies we need to follow today.”
Richard Lovelace

“For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than
the one that we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from
the one received, or a different gospel from the one you
accepted, you put up with it easily enough”
The Apostle Paul

3. the **downward mobility of incarnation** (to servant hood, the poor and
the marginalized) and the pursuit of **mysticism, gnosticism, escape
and the good life**

“Our God is a suffering God.”
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“(We are) summoned to share in God’s suffering at the hands of a
godless world.”
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

4. **naturally supernatural** – the trap of **normalizing the abnormal**

“God doesn’t necessarily speak in King James English and demon’s
are not hard of hearing”
John Wimber

“... we have this treasure in jars of clay ...”
The Apostle Paul

5. the pursuit of **nuanced truth** – processing within the framework of
theology, history, sociology and culture and **truth in the moment**

“... it is unacceptable to pretend that all readings and
interpretations (of the text) are equal ...”
Peter Fitch