

**DIALOGUE AND INTER-ECCLESIAL COOPERATION:**  
**AVOIDING THE DANGERS OF SECTARIANISM**  
*(Reaction to the paper by Freddy Guerrero)*

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Please allow me to react to the paper by Freddy Guerrero by commenting about the main points:

**I. ABOUT THE “INTRODUCTORY HERMENEUTICAL NOTES”**

Both Freddy and his referent, Dr. Bullón, are right in asserting that this issue should respond to the ethical imperative of unified action.

I would like to add to this the possibility of thinking of a theological imperative and a historical imperative since the Church of the Nazarene must, surpassed by triadic factors, keep itself from sectarianism:

*First*, its Wesleyan heritage, and consequently, its catholicity in a strict sense.

*Second*, the configuration of the denomination within a larger holiness movement—an interdenominational revival and the efforts of unity among some of these.

*Third*, the sound ecclesiology that is explicit in the denomination’s Articles of Faith.

I suggest however, that we maintain vigilance about this issue, as holiness movements have as part of their nature the tendency to fall into sectarian attitudes given their doctrinal particularities and its ethical demands.

**II. ABOUT: “WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DANGERS OF SECTARIANISM?”**

Freddy’s exposition hits upon some, that is to say, six of the dangers of sectarianism. We should reflect on all of them. One commentary I have regarding the second point: isolation isn’t only exogenous but also endogenous.

About point six: we must be careful that a certain definition and the defense of Nazarene identity could reflect this danger.

**III. ABOUT: “CONDITIONS FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION”**

Here Freddy makes an important point.

I would add as another condition for dialogue, the urgent need to define what is implied and to what point Christian unity reaches in concrete terms.

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#### **IV. ABOUT “CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS”**

Here Freddy summarizes what has been said earlier in the paper and offers a recommendation. Regarding this we have to say that our missional lines and ministries must respond to the Latin American *ethos* and to what that implies.