

Balance

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

- A. Balance is a necessity.
- B. Truth is seldom in extremes.

II. One side of God's Word must be held together in tension.

- A. So much of our lives must be held in tension.
- B. Good works are a part of salvation. (Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5,8, James)
- C. We have liberty in Christ but not license.
- D. We get our doctrine from the New Testament but our examples from the Old Testament.
- E. Look for forgiveness for your sins but also look to forgetting them too. (Proverbs 2:19)

III. One must please men and also please God.

- A. It is important not to offend people unless one must. (Galatians 1:10, 2 Corinthians 8:21, Matthew 7:27)
- B. We have liberty, not license. (1 Corinthians 8:9)
- C. The Holy Spirit is our teacher but so are men. (1 John 2:27, 2 Timothy 3:14)
- D. There can be two distinct unities, but a house divided against itself cannot stand. (Mark 9:40, Matthew 12:38)
 - 1. Allow others to do their thing.
 - 2. When you are with the team, be with the team.
 - 3. Success only comes with fierce loyalty.
 - 4. The Devil and God find success by getting a man from within.
 - 5. We are on dangerous ground to take God's servants apart. (Romans 14:4, Isaiah 54:17)

IV. Keep in mind what the Bible teaches and what the Bible says.

- A. There are some things we practice that are not in the Bible and there are some things in the Bible that we do not practice.

- B. Paul did not teach that all ministers must work for a living although even he did. (1 Corinthians 9)
- C. Jesus and Paul were single, but that does not mean all the church should be.
- D. We have to change and adapt.
- E. We need to bring into balance the place of women in the church. (1 Corinthians 14, 1 Timothy)
1. 1 Corinthians 14 is a correction of a fault.
 2. The entire picture must be taken into picture.
- F. There are certain things we practice and then certain things we teach as a practice.
1. Tithing should not be taught as a doctrine because all of the money is the Lord's, not just 10%.
 2. The only commandment not repeated by Christ is the Sabbath - it is a practice and not a doctrine because it is healthy to take one day a week off and Jesus is the Christian's rest Sunday through Saturday. Every day belongs to the Lord. (Hebrews 4:9)

Application questions

1. How is one to be balanced in doctrine?

2. How can one be balanced in practice?

3. What areas of your life could use some more balance? How will you achieve this? Explain.
