



The President's Perspective



In Pursuit of Balance

"The truck is pulling to the right!" That's what I told the automotive technician when I took our Ford pick-up in to have an alignment done on the front end. When I picked the truck up several hours later, I was pleasantly surprised, but troubled, when the technician informed me that the front end was in perfect alignment. He went on to say that the "pulling" was probably caused by a flaw in one of the front tires and that if we swapped places with the two front tires, it would solve the problem. Sure enough, when we traded places with the two tires, the truck stopped pulling to the right, but started pulling to the left. At least I now know what the problem is.

Life is much like dealing with flawed tires. Everything can be "just right", yet there is the constant "pulling" from a variety of sources trying to keep us from a balanced life. This is certainly true in the ministry. It takes constant vigilance to remain balanced in three vital areas.

We must strive for balance **PERSONALLY**. Jesus Christ is Himself the epitome of personal balance. In John 1:14, it is said of Jesus that He is full of "grace and truth." Note the perfect balance to Jesus' person. Truth is what He is. Grace is how He communicates what He is. In the day-to-day grind, we are faced with what one author called, "the tyranny of the urgent." So many "good" things arise in the course of a day that can, if we allow them to, pull us away from the "great", or really important things. We must maintain balance, personally, allotting sufficient time for the Lord, our wife, our children, and church. In addition, we should give proper time and attention to our physical well-being, as well as, our intellectual growth. Living by a carefully planned schedule can certainly assist us with accomplishing each of these responsibilities.

We must, also, strive for balance **PROFESSIONALLY**. Every time we have gone into a recording studio with a new music project, we have struggled with balancing the need to complete the project in the allotted time frame, with the desire for "perfection" in the presentation. I, now, contend daily with the need for balance between emphasis on local church meetings and attention to the many other doors open to us. One thing is sure, no one can do everything, and do it well. As one man said, "Narrow your responsibility, in order to broaden your opportunity." That is, limit your responsibilities to a few things; do them well, and you will have a broad range of opportunity in those limited areas.

While personal and professional balance is a must, perhaps the greatest area where balance is needed is **PHILOSOPHICALLY**. Just recently, I read a periodical from a particular Christian ministry that revealed in the fact that they were small and intended to stay that way. The strong, philosophical implication was that anything that grows to any

size cannot be of God. If balance is ever needed, it is in this area. In I Sam. 14, Jonathan and his armor bearer (just the two of them) move against the entire Philistine army. In verse 6, Jonathan encourages his armor bearer with these words, "for there is no restraint to the Lord, to save by MANY or by FEW." In this case, the Lord used few. While it IS true that the majority are wrong, most of the time, and the minority are right, most of the time, it is errant thinking that says that God never uses the MANY. Too many times, we develop an "Elijah Syndrome" mindset that says, "I'm the only one that's doing right." May God remind us, as He did Elijah, that He has "seven thousand that have not bowed the knee to Baal." Our philosophy, of ministry, or of life itself, must be thoroughly biblical and seasoned by balance.

One of my grandfather's favorite expressions was, "Keep it in the middle of the road." That was his way of saying, "avoid the ditches (extremes), and live life in a balanced way." Whether it's the investment of our time, the disciplining of our children, or determining whose at fault in a conflict, the right way is most often found in the middle, not on the extremes. May God grant each of us His wisdom, so that we live our lives for him in a Christ honoring, balanced way.

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