

General Topics :: Balance, Not Tangents -- CALLING ALL FORUM MEMBERS

Balance, Not Tangents -- CALLING ALL FORUM MEMBERS - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/3/28 4:11

Great teaching from George Verwer (Founder of OM) on the subject of balance and extremism in the Christian life. This will help keep us on the straight and narrow road, and to not go off on tangents(dead end streets).

I request that all members of this forum go and listen. George's wisdom could save us all a lot of trouble.

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid10867>) Balance, Not Tangents - MP3

Re: Balance, Not Tangents -- CALLING ALL FORUM MEMBERS - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/3/28 17:50

Many people on this forum are going down some of the dead end streets that George speaks about in this message. Yet this thread has so quickly fallen to the bottom. Please, give it a listen--

Adam

Re: - posted by Smokey (), on: 2006/3/28 19:44

Very timely message.. Well worth the listen.
This man speaks from decades of experience.
Greg

Re: balance and SI - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/3/28 21:10

I was thrilled to hear George Verwer again. I have always appreciated hearing his insight. Here are a few point I drew from this message:

Some Tangents which can pull us towards extremism:

- Ego trips
- Emotionalism
- Signs/wonders/miracles
- Local church (to exclusion of valuing Parachurch ministries)
- Legalism
- Liberty cult
- Prosperity
- Perfectionism

We need to balance between:

- Principles of the word of God and policies of the organization
- Zeal and wisdom
- Work and recreation
- Fellowship and worship
- Church life and family life
- Faith and common sense
- Anointing and training
- Spiritual warfare and rest
- Submission and freedom
- Love and truth

“We must develop a bit of reverent skepticism in order to keep from being drawn into extremism.”

Adam, I suspect that after you’ve been hanging out here for a while, you might find yourself developing more balanced perception of SI. Because of the large variety of folk who engage in dialogue, this is one of the best places I know where

one can develop balance. You can be sure, if you are leaning a little to far to the left, it isn't long before someone will be giving you a tug towards the right.
Diane

Balance ... - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/3/28 23:23

:D

Re: Balance ..., on: 2006/3/28 23:34

Thank you Diane.

I can't hear these AUDIO things ... NOT LIKE I'LL DIE AND GO TO HELL IF I DON'T but if it's in text form ... then I like to read everything.

We must not use anything we hear though to judge others burdens ... because others will come back at us and say we're obsessed with Revival or what Classic Authors say or men in general about what The Word says ... ya know ... here we go again ... saying 'my burden' is more SPECIAL than yours.

It 'appears' from your notes, that maybe that is Not what this man was saying. Thanks !!!

I have a dinky 'puter and archaic ISP technology going here. HAAA - Sloooooowwww Diiiiiall Uuuuup.

HA - I can go wash the dishes while some pages change - haaaa.

If it's in Text somewhere ... let me know Chuck.

Thanks, annie

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/3/29 0:21

Balance, Not Tangents

Annie, are you O.K.?

Re: - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/3/29 0:46

Lucky for you, I transcribed this message last week!

Here you go! <http://everydaymadenew.blogspot.com/2006/03/spiritual-balance-not-tangents-by.html>

Re:, on: 2006/3/29 1:31

Lucky for me. Thanks Chuck !

Mike, the answer to your question could probably be answered with as many answers as I just posted on The Lighter Side thread. :-D

Love ya's.

8-)

Re: Let me rephrase that, on: 2006/3/29 6:21

Thanks Chuck !!!

Oh man. And ya put his picture up.

Ya know, the Word says, the eyes are the lamp to the soul.

Wellll, first I see this Brother's face and I said, 'Oh oh, he sure has that goooood clear eyed loving face how can I read this now objectively ... but I must.

Ha ... well, there it is. Whada guy !!!

I've got the complete works of Shaeffer and he quotes Tozer, etc. and da man PAUL, but Wow, such humility in truth. Now saved in file in my "dinky puter". :-D

What can I say Chuck, but what a wonderful sacrificial thing you've done and God Bless ya for it.

:-D Annie

Re: written transcript - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/3/29 6:22

Thanks, Allan for the transcription. I prefer the written form, and especially like it when the main thoughts are **highlighted**. That way they stick better in my mind.

(Now, there's another challenge for you!)

It is our human tendency to pull a swinging pendulum too far over, in our attempt to stop the momentum.

It's a blessing to recall that a lot of these points have been touched on in various discussions - even since I started here last year.

Diane

Re: staying balanced in our burdens - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/3/29 8:05

Quote:
-----We must not use anything we hear though to judge others burdens ... because others will come back at us and say we're obsessed with Revival or what Classic Authors say or men in general about what The Word says ... ya know ... here we go again ... saying 'my burden' is more SPECIAL than yours.

Annie, though G Verwer did not cover this point, he did say that those who are zealous for God are more inclined to drift into extremism.

True, an imbalanced burden for revival can lead us into tangents, as was discussed in the Revival Idolatry thread. Yet, we can misjudge the apparent "extremism" of others, as you say by comparing them to OUR position. What looks balanced may be extremism (the logical Pharisees), but what looks unbalanced may actually be well-balanced. (someone who weeps a lot)

1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,

6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. from Ecclesiastes 3

Diane

Re: Pro 25:11, on: 2006/3/29 9:02

Ecc 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Ecc 3:2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

Ecc 3:3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

Ecc 3:4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Ecc 3:5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

Ecc 3:6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

Ecc 3:7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

Ecc 3:8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Shalom and I'm going to bed now.

:knockedout: < - code "knockedout". ha.

Re: - posted by lastblast (), on: 2006/3/29 9:09

Quote:
-----We must not use anything we hear though to judge others burdens ... because others will come back at us and say we're obsessed with Revival or what Classic Authors say or men in general about what The Word says ... ya know ... here we go again ... saying 'my burden' is more SPECIAL than yours.

Amen sister.....Blessings in Him, Cindy

Re: Balance - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/3/29 10:07

Quote:
-----Annie, though G Verwer did not cover this point, he did say that those who are zealous for God are more inclined to drift into extremism.

Good point... Maybe the question becomes, "Whose" 'balance'?

It comes up frequently enough in the thought train, but never more so pronounced than perhaps when going in and through and back out again of certain seasons;

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Joh 3:8

Re: - posted by Graftedbranc, on: 2006/3/29 11:09

Quote:

-----Good point... Maybe the question becomes, "Whose" 'balance'?

Amen, one man's "balance" is another man's "extrem". And those who press on to know the Lord will always be viewed by some as "unbalanced" if they don't follow or go along with the "status quo".

But there is a proper balance in the Christian life as seen in the Lord Himself and reproduced in the apostles and ministered through them to all the churches.

If we would be "balanced" we need to be much in the Word of God, much in praying through the Word of God, that we may:

"grow up in all things into Christ who is the Head, out from whom the whole body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation of the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love."

Our indwelling Lord is the Balanced One. And to the degree we are one with the Head, to that degree we exhibit that proper balance as clearly seen in the scriptures.

Graftedbranch

Re: - posted by myfirstLove (), on: 2006/3/29 17:59

wow, if you guys agree with george verwer's balanced teaching then no need to listen to wesley, ravenhill and finney's preaching because they preach on Christ perfection (sinless life) which I believe too. I believe in romans 6, 7, 8.

I believe we can have a pure heart and mind. Jesus told the pharisees that they clean the outside cup, but forsake cleansing the inside where greed and lust are hidden. This is called legalism. focusing on the outer appearance and forsaking the cleansing of the heart. It doesn't matter how clean you look on the outside, that you stop watching t.v. and that your full of good works, God sees the heart. A person full of good works could still have a heart that is full of lust, envy, and jealousy making his work a stench to God.

Luke 11:39 (New King James Version)
New King James Version (NKJV)

39 Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness.

Jesus came to save us FROM sin not in sin.

Matthew 1:21 (New King James Version)
New King James Version (NKJV)

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people FROM their sins."

this article by andrew strom is a good example of sinless life.

"SINLESS" - an INCIDENT that I EXPERIENCED
-by Rita.

Your recent topic of 'sinless' reminded me of something that the

Holy Spirit showed me.

I was fasting for three days and half way through the fast I was in the Christian School photocopying. One of the teachers came into the office and gave me a piece of birthday cake and a cup of coffee, explaining that it was one of the pupil's birthday and they had decided to cut the cake mid-morning and celebrate. Without a thought I ate the cake and upon swallowing the last mouthful I was overcome. I suddenly realised I was fasting! Not only was I fasting, I was exactly half way through a three day fast. I said to the Lord, "No! I am so sorry. I am half way through the fast you told me to do. What shall I do? -Start from here for another three days, or shall I stop and start again tomorrow?" I was so upset. And the Lord answered and said to me, "I did not see it." I said, "What do you mean?" At first I thought he was being kind. But He said, "I did not see. Your intention had not been to do this and your heart is innocent before me." I was amazed by this.

It took a few days to realise that the Lord truly meant I was without sin. It was not that I had sinned and repented - it was that I was following God and communing with him - an error did not count. I was set free and the lesson I learnt was about being sinless and the freedom and joy that brought me. I realised that my body had sinned almost by automation, but I had not sinned. I had not deliberately rebelled against God and my intention was not to destroy. I know that lesson was the purpose of the fast.

ANDREW STROM AGAIN: This is one of the most vital secrets to walking "sinless" before the Lord. -It is pure "Romans 7". Rita says (above), "I realised that my body had sinned almost by automation, but I had not sinned. I had not deliberately rebelled against God." In other words, her heart and her "inner man" were still walking in 'innocence' before the Lord - because there was no DELIBERATE or "KNOWING" sin. And God actually said to her, "I did not see it." So during this whole process of committing 'outward' error and stumbling, her heart remained pure before the Lord. Therefore from God's viewpoint, she had DONE NOTHING WRONG - and was still walking in "heart-purity" before Him.

Do you realize what incredible liberty and freedom is in this one principle, my friends? We can walk FREE FROM SIN! We can walk "clean" before God! It is the "inner man" that we need to keep clean.

Does this mean that we are allowed to just go and sin 'outwardly' then? No - not at all. Then we would be "KNOWINGLY" sinning. The whole point of this is that we do not DELIBERATELY or KNOWINGLY sin. Therefore we remain pure of heart. It becomes our 'natural' state of being. -To walk this way.

Note that we must have gone through 'DEEP REPENTANCE' and have an inbuilt "HATRED OF SIN" to even start to walk in this. Otherwise it simply will not work. We also (of course) need the Holy Spirit!

What freedom - what liberty - if we can simply walk before God in the "inner man" with no known sin. That's what this is all about!

It is the free gift of God in Christ Jesus. Thankyou, Father!

"The secret of backsliding is, that reformations are not carried deep enough. Christians are not set with all their hearts to aim at a speedy deliverance from all sin, but on the contrary are left, and in many instances taught, to indulge the expectation that they shall sin as long as they live."

-Charles G. Finney

Re:, on: 2006/3/29 19:35

Where's my cane ? I must be blind.

Did I miss something out of the message I read this morning here ?

I've got the sunglasses and the tin cup, but apparently needing a cane ??

Somebody help. :-o

Re: an example of extremism - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/3/29 22:18

Quote:

-----Does this mean that we are allowed to just go and sin 'outwardly' then? No - not at all. Then we would be "KNOWINGLY" sinning. The whole point of this is that we do not DELIBERATELY or KNOWINGLY sin. Therefore we remain pure of heart.

This is a good example of extremism.

Those who hold this view can indeed regard themselves as 'sinless' But ask their spouse or work associates about them , and you may discover that they may have a more balanced view of the "saint".

Diane

Re: unbalanced people - our heroes - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/3/29 22:33

Have you ever noticed that our world tends to admire very unbalanced people. They may have one extraordinary talent, have made outstanding achievements in a certain area, have been the best something in the world...

But they may have grave emotional or relational weaknesses, they may have a failed marriage. They may have absolutely no ability to tend to the ordinary maintenance needs of their home. They may lack social skills.

Generally speaking well-balanced people are very ordinary people.

Diane

Re: - posted by myfirstLove (), on: 2006/3/30 0:11

diane,

if you disagree and call me an extremist (going beyond the word), please use the word and not someone else's experiences. Let's look at Jesus and not man. We know if we look at man we will see many errors because many lack faith in Jesus. We need to stop looking at man's weaknesses and look to Jesus's strength and promises.

Someone mention that Jesus and the apostles look well balanced. Are you serious? I know definitely to the lost they would look like lunatics. Jesus definitely looked way out there with the pharisees. Many wanted to kill Him. The prophets definitely were not well balanced. They got persecuted for being too zealous and truthful.

Those verses I posted, what does that mean then? Explain Romans 6.

Re:, on: 2006/3/30 1:39

There you are myfirstlove. ha. I got confused by your post. It seemed you didn't like the Message posted on page one ... and I could find no fault with it. In fact, it was rather refreshing to hear for a change.

If I'm wrong by reading into your post what you didn't mean, could you tell me ?

Jesus only looked "way out there with the Pharisees" because they trusted in their own righteousness ... in other words "self"-righteous, and Jesus was saying, NO, that's filthy rags and He preached "by faith alone" ... Ooo that made them mad alrighty.

But, the crowds followed after Jesus for a reason and 3000 were saved right at Pentecost.

If you could quote the part of that Message from page one that you didn't agree with, than maybe we all could understand your post better. That would be more helpful I think. At least to straighten out my confusion I posted on pg 2. Thanks !

I like these verses ...

Phi 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Phi 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Phi 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Phi 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Phi 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Phi 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Phi 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Phi 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Phi 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Phi 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Phi 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Phi 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

TTYL

Annie

Re: doctrine that swings too far - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/3/30 8:54

Quote:

-----if you disagree and call me a extremist

I did not call you an extremist. I was referring to the one quote that I copied. It is an example of how good teachings can go overboard - much to the destruction of the testimony of Christ. I will attempt to explain further:

Non-Christians can often see sin in Christians that the Christians are blind to, or excuse behind a blanket of "I am perfect in Christ" To say that only CONSCIOUS sin is wrong is ridiculous. Most of the root sins of our faulty behaviors and responses in life are unconscious. If they remain unconscious to us, they will eventually destroy us. The Spirit brings them into our conscious awareness so that we can see them and admit them (confession). That is a needed step towards change and maturity.

Perfectionism is one extreme: denial. The other extreme is obsession with faults. Both extremes, if carried to their ultimate

ate end can lead to emotional/mental breakdown - psychosis on one hand (there is nothing wrong with me, it's everybody else, it's not my fault, I'm not responsible), or neurosis (everything is wrong with me, it's all my fault, I am a horrible person, I keep failing, I will never be able to measure up, anxiety etc)

People typically develop a doctrine that overcompensates for a legitimate concern.

Consider these thoughts - descriptions of the pendulum swing into extremes:

George Finney was a remarkable revivalist, used by God to bring countless to Christ. He also produced some excellent, helpful writings, that we ought to read. However, some of his teachings distorted the purity of the Gospel message in an attempt to control the sinful passions. In his article, Holiness Essential to Salvation, he prescribed a high standard of sanctification and then stated "in proportion as they recede from this they fail of salvation". Finney's Sabbath laws were many; for example, "abstinence of all amusements, and abstinence from walking or riding abroad for exercise." I believe that while it is important to strive for holiness it can subtly become a doctrine of works. And the gospel message is no longer preached.

Harry Ironside (1876-1951), an itinerant preacher and author, shared in his biography, his experience in the Holiness Movement during the early twentieth century. Early in his ministry, he zealously promoted holiness teachings, and was eager to achieve this high level of perfection. However, he soon came to see that the teachings had some negative effects on people. He wrote: "It left a tremendous train of spiritual derelicts" Pg 89, A Biography, H A Ironside. Ironside saw disillusioned failures, emotional wrecks, and people who abandoned the faith entirely because they felt that they could never measure up. He also saw many "living in cunningly concealed hypocrisy", trying to hide the fact that they were falling short.

In his own attempts to attain this sanctified state, Ironside was constantly nagged by his own imperfections. Eventually, in total frustration, he left the ministry, believing that he was a bad example. Prior to this he had been preaching four hundred sermons a year. He even considered giving up and following the way of the world. The Holy Spirit restored him by revealing to him that he had been focusing on himself all along, and not trusting in the good news. Ironside came to the realization that the grace of Christ was sufficient. As a result, he became an outstanding preacher of the gospel.

The Brethren Movement

Ironside's book, Historical Sketch of the Brethren Movement, describes their many struggles to preserve the gospel. The founders of the Brethren Movement had left powerful religious institutions with controlling hierarchies, so that they could form a fellowship where people could be free to practice their faith under the authority of the Holy Spirit. The Brethren were also zealous to achieve righteous living and correct doctrine. However, because of their zeal, dissension and splits plagued their churches - usually over interpretations of doctrine and life style rules. Ironside observed: "The Brethren were remarkable people for rightly dividing the Word and wrongly dividing themselves" and "They were very particular about breaking bread, but very careless about breaking hearts." Nevertheless, in spite of this perpetual weakness in the movement, God did not stop blessing these Brethren believers and instead, he often used them for his glory. Many of them preached a genuine gospel message.

Diane

Re: - posted by myfirstLove (), on: 2006/3/30 13:30

o.k. Diane, let's stop looking at man and let's look at God's words.

What does it mean to walk in the Spirit? Are we sinning when we walk in the Spirit? Paul says that if we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. We know if we are giving to idols, covetness, jealousies, etc...we are walking in flesh and NOT in the Spirit as Gal. 5:19 lists the works of flesh.

1 John 3:20 says if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence towards God.....we are condemned in the flesh so if our heart does not condemn us we are walking in the Spirit (Rom. 8:1). Our heart is pure giving us confidence toward God to know whatever we ask we shall receive.

1 John 3:20-22

20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Romans 8:1

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Jesus says He came to save us FROM OUR SINS. His grace enables us to live without sin. the Spirit who lives in us helps us to overcome the flesh IF we choose to believe and abide in Him (john 15:4-5).

Matthew 1:21

21 "She will bear a Son; and (A)you shall call His name Jesus, for He (B)will save His people FROM THEIR SINS.'

1 John 5:4

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

this is why many christians are so bound with sin because they do not believe in Jesus's promises. thru man it is impossible, but thru God all things are possible, IF we believe! we have the victory over sin. praise Jesus! He has made away for us to live godly and escape the corruption in the world thru lust!

diane, please meditate on these verses in 2 peter.

2 Peter 1-10

2 Peter 1

Greeting the Faithful

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Fruitful Growth in the Faith

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

SELAH

2 Corinthians 3:17

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

God bless,
Lisa

Re:, on: 2006/3/30 13:55

Lisa, you still haven't answered, 'what' set you off on this message by George Verwer ?

Was it this ? ---

Quote:

"The 4th tangent-- or the 5th tangent-- is legalism. A spiritual movement is born in the power and the energy of the Holy Spirit. It's not a matter of rules and regulations, though there may be some basic policies. But the Holy Spirit is doing a real work, people are being changed. The danger is that several generations later, when people have run out of their spiritual steam, they try to enforce that which was originally a work of the Holy Spirit-- and produce a in fact similiar, or some kind of carbon copy- it doesn't work. And legalism is basically an enemy to true spiritualality. That why, young people, most of the things we have said to you-- even in the discipleship manual-- I don't want you to see them as legalistic little boxes that you have to live in. I want you to see them as goals that you can aim at. And as principles that will have to be worked out in your own life in the unique way that God is working within you. cont ...

One of the books I love is Lane Adams book, it's in the book room called, "Why is it taking so long"-- That has helped, such a wretch as I... Some areas of my Christian life I seem to be going incredibly slow. And it's such an encouragement to understand that other people, even pastors have some of the same struggles. You know, isn't it great when you meet someone that has your same wretched struggles. Doesn't that, somehow, warm your spiritual battery and give your carborator a clean out? Praise God! I've always had difficulty, relating to these people that seem to have it all together. And when I first met David Burmin, you know, he seemed to just be the All American Pastor-- had it all together, and look at his beautiful church. I came in here, feelin' like a worm, that had just crawled out of the back end of an I-won't-tell-you-what. And I just got such a linking with David as we prayed together and discovered, he's real. And uh, he's human. And I'm sure you know that as well. Praise the living God for the fellowship we have as we share some of our struggles, some of our doubts, some of our fears. Great faith is not made in the absense of fear and doubt and struggle. Great faith is made as we battle through-- Some of us daily!-- to the position of trust, and faith, and rest in the Lord. Are you doin' that? Or are you allowing some of those fears and struggles and doubts to push you in some little corner and isolate you from God's people. And therefore eventually paralyze your spiritual life."

Lisa, do you believe in the Sinless Perfection Doctrine ?

I'm just wanting to know what you didn't like about the message.

Well, maybe when you get a chance.

Thanks.

Annie again

Re: - posted by myfirstLove (), on: 2006/3/30 15:00

sorry meagain, i thought i did address it. diane understood and thats why she responded. i thought i was clear, i guess not. read my last post to diane. yes....i believe in Jesus's promises for us... i believe that He came to save us from our sins and made away for us to overcome/escape all sins. He has enable us thru His Spirit to live a sinless life as we abide in Him daily.

paul says in galations that if we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh, meaning if we do have jelosy, anger, ect its because we are in the flesh, and not His Spirit. Jesus would not command us to do something that would be far reaching.

Jesus says that if we do not abide in Him we can do nothing. so we must abide in Him daily to overcome all things, with out Him we will fail, we will fall back to the lust of the flesh. why did He send us a Helper? flesh can't overcome, but his Spirit is our helper to help us overcome, if we believe.

i hope this is clear.

i so believe this is an important doctrine to teach because it gives us hope, knowing we can live in full deliverence of all things (true liberty). that Jesus has made away for us to be set free from all bondages. He has not left us in sin, but has overcome for us that if we believe we will overcome thru Him.

Re:, on: 2006/3/30 15:14

Hi Lisa, thank you for answering again.

I definitely say Rom 8 and Gal 5 a lot ... but there is a difference with the Sinless Perfection Doctrine.

I knew a man who claimed he never sinned in word, action or thought. That's sinless perfection.

I see sin as "missing the mark" and the "mark" as the actual image of Christ.

So what bothers me about some sinless perfection teaching is, that when folks think it is just stopping what they think are "sins", they cut themselves off from coming into His Image. They stop short there, at just cessation of what they define as sins.

They can get self-righteous, as this man above got and he didn't have the Nature of Christ at all.

Anyhow ... that was my concern with that doctrine. And normally Love is not the highest on their list neither.

A person would have to say they walk in the Holy Spirit 24/7 to be sinless perfection from God's view point, but Paul couldn't even say that.

We "strive" to, but no one accomplishes "His Image" 24/7.

That was my point. To "sin" is silly ... as in what most of us consider sin ... yes ... but to claim the "walking in the Holy Spirit" 24/7 is beyond Paul even.

That's what I was getting at.

Hope you understand.

Love.

Annie

Re:, on: 2006/3/30 23:28

hi all..i listened to george's sermon today had never heard him..i liked him he reminded me of ray comfort a lot in style..so i looked at his site and his blog,was interested to find this quote on his daily blog

I had the joy of meeting Rick and Kay Warren about two years ago. They are humble servants and people of God. I have followed their ministry for years and read some of their material which is being used of the Lord. Yet, I discover there is a campaign by some people to discredit them. Someone even sent me an anti-Rick Warren tape. Why are Christians so ready to criticize and pick apart Christian leaders? It's very sad!! I believe Charles Swindoll's book The Grace Awakening would help set free from this judgmentalism.

i'm normally the last person to raise questions about other christians,what with my own walk being so precarious..but it seems to me his statements closes any avenue of discernment,and if anyone does there neatly fobbed off as critical or judgmental..i'm aware of many christian who feel very unsettled about the all rick warren thing and there far from judgmental just concerned..

andy

Re: - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/3/31 0:27

Quote:

prayerbone wrote:

hi all..i listened to george's sermon today had never heard him..i liked him he reminded me of ray comfort a lot in style..so i looked at his site and is blo
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ses any avenue of discernment,and if anyone does there neatly fobbed off as critical or judgemental..i'm aware of many christian who feel very unsettle
d about the all rick warren thing and there far from judgemental just concerned..

andy

I would have to disagree with this. Although I'm sure you had the best intentions...

I have met George personally and he is a very discerning, prayerful man of God.

I can see how you get this image of him, amidst the discussion of balance, grace, and judgementalism-- but let me assur
e you the image you have is false. George loves people, loves God, and is not afraid to say things how it is to the church
.

Consider Paul's attitude toward others who were preaching Christ "from envy and strife" and "selfish ambition".

Phillipians 1:15-18,

5Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;

16the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

17the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my i
mprisonment.

18What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and
I will rejoice,

Paul simply rejoiced that Christ was being proclaimed! He felt no need to refute their ministry, and defend his own.

George Verwer is not endorsing Rick Warrens books. He simply has the attitude of Paul-- George is rejoicing that never
the less Christ is being preached!

Blessings to you.

Adam

Re: Christ or our "perfection" - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/3/31 5:50

Quote:

----- i so believe this is an important doctrine to teach because it gives us hope, knowing we can live in full deliverence of all things (true
liberty). that Jesus has made away for us to be set free from all bondages. He has not left us in sin, but has overcome for us that if we believe we will o
vercome thru Him.

In my career as a music teacher I see many parallels to the spiritual life.

Some musicians are content with a very low level of achievement. They have no vision for anything much greater than w
here they are. They don't care to make sacrifices in order to grow musically. They just want to play what they feel like.
They think that they are good enough. I think they are very mediocre. (Compare this to the extreme of libertarianism)

Some want to be the "sinless" musician— follow all the instructions and obey every marking and play flawlessly. They are afraid of making mistakes. But in order to remain perfect they have to remain at a grade one level for the rest of their lives. I say to them, "If you can do it perfectly, you don't need me." I can see (but they don't) a far greater level that they could attain if they were willing to take risks— and be less than perfect. But they can't do it on their own. They need to trust me - that I have what they need to move on, and I will not reject them everytime they mess up. That is the path to ever greater victories.

I think a lot of people prefer to remain at a grade one level of spirituality. It feels secure and safe where they experience few failures, and life moves along smoothly and in control.

God knows that there is a far deeper level of brokenness and crucifixion that we have not yet experienced. So he brings ever deeper trials and tests into our lives in which we discover that we are not nearly as sanctified as we thought we were. In our failures Romans Seven comes alive to us. We experience the nature within us that wars against what we know to be right. But if we stop at Romans Seven, we will only end up sinking into despair or a legalistic trap in order to conquer our flesh. (a form of extremism) We must read on to Romans Eight— that glorious chapter: There is now no more condemnation for those who are in Christ.... We are reminded there that the Spirit has set us free from condemnation. We don't have to sink into a pit of despair and legalistic traps. We can rest in the Lord trust him to move us on. And we can trust in his provisions to make it possible: his Spirit, his love, his peace, his hope, his word, etc etc.

And that is what those verses that you quoted remind us of: the hope that Christ can enable us to move on into ever more Christlikeness. "We have been given fullness in Christ... Col 1:9 It is Christ who completes us, not our perfectionism."

The path to spiritual growth is downward. We decrease, he increases. And he'll get us there, but we do need to trust him.
Diane

Re:, on: 2006/3/31 9:38

hi combat what do u disagree with?that he said it? or my impressions on what he said?...if its the first its clearly on is daily blog..if its the latter thats cool..but is words are clearly boxing all people as one who raise concerns about rick warren,i think that's a concern..

please let me state i'm the least of christian's and im sure rick's walk and george's are way above mine that's not in question..what is, is there sheperd's, with that comes greater responsibility right?

andy

Re: - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/3/31 17:43

I was referring to your impression of George. :-)

Re: - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/3/31 17:48

Something I think that would help us all get along better is if we would understand, "God works with different people in different ways"

That simple phrase has changed the way I react to a lot of stuff.

Adam :-)

Re:, on: 2006/3/31 18:11

hi, well u know him better then me, as i said i liked him he reminded me of ray comfort..but his quote did strike me as odd. im not right with God myself so stones and greenhouse and all that! but part of my confusion is this very thing..half the church tellin u someones off and the other half saying there great and both saying God speaks to them, i'm startin to think they speak to themselves i.e both deluded..
andy

Re: - posted by myfirstLove (), on: 2006/3/31 23:07

diane,

you didn't finish rom.8:1

this is what you wrote:

"There is now no more condemnation for those who are in Christ...."

this is what the verse says in the bible:

Romans 8

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**

i spoke to you about galations 5:16 on my last post. walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. so we see that if we really walk in the Spirit, the bible says WE WILL NOT FULFILL THE LUST OF THE FLESH! galations list the work of flesh in gal. 5:19-20. so if you have anger or jealousy in your heart you are not walking the Spirit, but the flesh. this is not my opinion, but this is what the WORD says. so romans says there is NO condemnation for those who walk in the Spirit, but if they walk in flesh there is. romans 8 says we are condemned in the flesh.

i agree with you on this part, that we MUST decrease in order that He may increase. we cannot even walk with a pure heart and clean mind if there is a big ME in the way.

annie,

that's why i told diane not to look to man, but look to God's word, His promises. with man we can find so many faults because we can be so critical and find every little imperfection. and a lot of imperfection that christians find on other christians have NOTHING to do with the cross, but nit pickers full of jealousy and envy. a lot of people judge outwardly and do not make righteous judgement. Jesus of course was very discerning and saw the motives that's why when the pharisees asked Jesus something He did not always answer their questions, but say something different that had to do with their wicked motives behind their "what it seems good questions." even Jesus was nick picked on. people were saying, look he sits at with sinners, look He's Joseph's son, look He drinks wine. all this stuff seemed sinful to those religious people that they totally missed the Truth. they didn't even see Jesus walking in purity because they judged outwardly!

God bless,
lisa

Re:, on: 2006/4/1 0:54

Hi Lisa, I think what Diane said was "We must read on to Romans Eight – that glorious chapter" so she did include the "whole" it seemed to me in her last post, previous page.

You told her not to look to other men because of the men's bio type things she put in her top post on page three, but that may have been because your very first posted sentence on this thread on page 2 started with the names " Wesley, Ravenhill and Finney".

You sort of yelled at her "WE WILL NOT FULFILL THE LUST OF THE FLESH!", as though she had said it was alright to sin.

I've known Diane's posts here since last year and she's never said that.

She's heard the "walking in the spirit" so much on here and elsewhere's I think maybe you just need to get to know her previous posts, starting from last year to make that call, that she doesn't understand all of this. She likes Chip Brogden a lot, that much I can tell you. :-)

We can sometimes be saying the same thing yet just with different phraseology.

Now to me you wrote:

Quote:

myfirstLove wrote:
annie,

thats why i told diane not to look to man, but look to God's word, His promises. with man we can find so many faults because we can be so critical and find every little imperfection. and a lot of imperfection that christians find on other christians have NOTHING to do with the cross, but nit pickers full of jealousy and envy. alot of people judge outwardly and do not make righteous judgement. Jesus of corse was very discerning and saw the motives thats why when the pharisees ask Jesus something He did not always answer their questions, but say something different that had to do with their wicked motives behind their "what it seems good questions." even Jesus was nick picked on. people were saying, look he sat with sinners, look He's joseph h's son, look He drinks wine. all this stuff seemed sinful to those religouse people that they totally missed the Truth. they didn't even see Jesus walking in purity because they judged outwardly!

God bless,
lisa

But on page 2 again, in your first post you quoted "Rita" - "ANDREW STROM AGAIN" and Finney" as your sources, before page 3 where Diane quoted her brief bio type things.

I don't understand how Diane's quotes of bio's on some men could be wrong to use if you used other's also before she did.

Now looking at what you wrote to me in view of the fact that you came on against this George guy's article and with the names I already quoted from you above I'm trying to see where "nit pickers" falls here.

First you say to me that Diane should not look to man, when all she gave were some bio type things in that one post then you say, "we can find so many faults because we can be so critical and find every little imperfection etc on" , but isn't that what you've just done to Diane right off the bat, without knowing her ?

Jesus knew folks, by seeing into the very heart of the people He dealt with ... that's not the case here at all.

Diane is saying some of the same things you are but in different words and you're faulting her means, when you're using the same in essence.

I don't find her answers quite as sharp though and I don't sense that she came on at you but at what you said about George after your Andrew Strom quote. You seemed to say in your first post, that even George was condoning sin because he came against the same legalism that you've mentioned above about "the Pharisees". What was the Pharisees greatest sin that Jesus and Paul had to deal with, if not legalism/self-righteousness, which are one and the same thing actually ?

You say they faulted Jesus because he sat with sinners and drank wine ... but that's what Diane has been trying to say but you are faulting her the same way they faulted our Lord. By outward appearances and not knowing the person or what at their basic theology is, from her other over 1000 posts here.

Unless you've been a lurker here since last May, that would be hard to assume of anyone.

Neither Diane nor I mean you any harm, and until this Article, I'd never heard of this George man ... but I liked this one article he wrote.

I used to be called a legalist, because I don't watch TV or anything secular like books or magazines, etc. etc., but we were taught at Bible college to be legalist with ourselves but not with others.

If you have time, could you answer this post I left on page 3 ?

I'll post it again here ... Thank you and God Bless and Shalom I pray.

Quote:
-----MeAgain wrote:
Hi Lisa, thank you for answering again.
I definitely say Rom 8 and Gal 5 a lot ... but there is a difference with the Sinless Perfection Doctrine.

I knew a man who claimed he never sinned in word, action or thought. That's sinless perfection.

I see sin as "missing the mark" and the "mark" as the actual image of Christ.

So what bothers me about some sinless perfection teaching is, that when folks think it is just stopping what they think are "sins", they cut themselves off from coming into His Image. They stop short there, at just cessation of what they define as sins.

They can get self-righteous, as this man above got and he didn't have the Nature of Christ at all.

Anyhow ... that was my concern with that doctrine. And normally Love is not the highest on their list neither.

A person would have to say they walk in the Holy Spirit 24/7 to be sinless perfection from God's view point, but Paul couldn't even say that.

We "strive" to, but no one accomplishes "His Image" 24/7.

That was my point. To "sin" is silly ... as in what most of us consider sin ... yes ... but to claim the "walking in the Holy Spirit" 24/7 is beyond Paul even.

That's what I was getting at.

Hope you understand.
Love.
Annie

Re: getting on track - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/4/1 9:13

This is a very revealing thread, which I think exposes the roots of tangents -- attempts to overbalance what we perceive to be out of balance in another person.

Our observant -- "mediator", MeAgain, made a good point, which I feel applies here:

Quote:
----- We can sometimes be saying the same thing yet just with different phraseology.

First of all, I wish to admit that my initial wording invited the very pendulum swing that we would prefer to avoid. I could have done better.

Let me recap our conversation and see if we can steer it on course:

Lisa responded to the Verwer article:

Quote:
----- if you guys agree with george verwer's balanced teaching then no need to listen to wesley, ravenhill and finney's preaching because they preach on Christ perfection (sinless life) which I believe too. I believe in romans 6, 7, 8.

Lisa then defended the doctrine of sinless perfection by quoting Rita:

Quote:
----- Does this mean that we are allowed to just go and sin 'outwardly' then? No - not at all. Then we would be "KNOWINGLY" sinning. The whole point of this is that we do not DELIBERATELY or KNOWINGLY sin. Therefore we remain pure of heart.

I responded:

Quote:

-----This is a good example of extremism.

You responded:

you disagree and call me a extremist

Disagreeing with a point is no reason to assume one is also labelling the other an extremist. In fact, to use any label to broadly sweep one's character is out of place, and not my intent with you. I don't even wish to view Rita as being extremist. I just wished to point out that one of her conclusions was incorrect and potentially pathological. It basically excuses all unconscious sin. I quoted from Ironside to point out that even Finney and his followers strayed into extremism -- and that caused severe damage in the Body.

I should have responded initially: "This thought could lead to extremism". That might have prevented you feeling like I was attacking you or your own doctrine. In fact, as I read your words, I see that you share an abundance of precious truth in the very issue being discussed.

I believe that if you knew my background, you would understand why I jump on these kinds of perfection teachings so quickly. You see, for years I had a tendency to swing too far towards perfectionism. It is a devil's trap. I was never at peace, and always plagued with shame and a sense of failure. I felt that surely God could not love me because I could never reach his mark. I felt that I was never good enough. God knew that this bondage would always keep me from being all I could be for him. He could see the path of self-destruction that I was on. No one else could. In school I had very high marks, many perfect tests. I was praised by my evangelical religious peers, and everyone else for being the model Christian. On the surface I was sinless according to all the standards I understood. (the very thing that Rita idealizes.) On the inside I was far from the mark -- mainly because I failed to trust that God was sufficient.

I'll stop there, as I think you will understand the overall sentiment.

Good doctrine is healthy doctrine, not only spiritually, but for life in general. It produces well-balanced people. If we see bad stuff coming out of it, we better check it out- where it went off the rails.

Diane

Re: - posted by Graftedbranc, on: 2006/4/1 14:05

Quote:

-----someone mention that Jesus and the apostles look well balanced. are you serious?

I don't know how they looked, but they are "balanced". Christ is the perfect example of God lived out in humanity. In Him the attributes of God are seen manifest in his human virtues. That is the attributes of Love, of patience, of endurance, of kindness, of forbearance, of Shepharding, of holiness, etc. Christ manifested the attributes of God in His humanity.

The world will never regard believers as "balanced" simply because the world is made up of unbelievers and so to live "by faith in the Son of God" is most definitely "unbalanced" to an unbeliever.

The balance is not between faith and unbelief, holiness and sin, righteousness and unrighteousness, truth and error.

The proper balance is the balance of truth and practice and not taking one aspect of truth to the exclusion of others. Just as Satan's temptation of our Lord was to cause Him to embrace and act on one true thing to the neglect of others, ("it is written, He shall give His angels charge... cast yourself off..."), the Lord replied, 'again it is written'.

As Tozer says, "a truth made to stand alone often does not stand straight."

General Topics :: Balance, Not Tangents -- CALLING ALL FORUM MEMBERS

In scripture, one aspect of truth is balanced by another. for example, some will take election and the sovereignty of God to an extreme suggesting it is a waste of time to preach the gospel because, "the elect will be saved anyway". Others take the aspect of our freedom from the Law to suggest that one may live after his flesh with no consequences.

Others will take gifts and magnify them to be the center of God's economy to the neglect of Christ as our indwelling Life and our need to "grow up in all things into Christ as the Head, and the need by the Spirit to be "conformed to the image of Christ".

Some will take signs and wonders found in the Bible and suggest that that is main thing. To live a sensational life full of miracles and teach that we must not live "normally", working, and such things but rather sit on a rock and wait for ravens to deliver food to us.

The Lord Jesus was the perfect man as God intended man to be. He was God manifest in the flesh demonstrating Man as a vessel to contain God's life and manifest God in their humanity. And this Life was not just in sensational works of power but in day to day activities, in going and coming, in eating and drinking, in fellowship, in prayer, in all the aspects of living.

And Christ as the single grain of wheat was sown into the ground to die and His Life was released and in resurrection He now imparts His Life into all His believers as the "many grains".

And the Apostles were those constituted with this same Christ as their indwelling Life and lived Him out in all His balance and reality.

And the Apostles ministered this same Christ to all the believers that they too might enjoy Christ as their all, as their indwelling Life, and to manifest Christ as the constituent of all the members of His body to be the corporate manifestation of Christ and His testimony on the earth. That is the many grains of wheat sharing in the Life of the One Grain of wheat as His reproduction.

Graftedbranch

Re: Balance, Not Tangents -- CALLING ALL FORUM MEMBERS - posted by Rahman, on: 2006/4/4 14:07

"Balance, Not Tangents" i think is a good sermon, a real "spirituality-check" if you will ... i really appreciated that the brother our Lord used to expound on this referred to himself as "a natural extremist like me", and told of how our Lord freed him from some things ...

i can totally identify with this brother's statement, for when i was in the world i sure was an extremist for satan ... Thank God not to the extent of say an axe murderer, but i sure was one notorious "party organizer" ... Me and my (then) crew used to throw bashes that folks came from 4 states to attend because they knew they were gonna have one good ole time in the flesh ...

i've heard it said that when a person comes to Christ He will utilize whatever gifts, attribute of character, etc., in the change He'll use to His own advantage ... If that's the case then it would make sense to me that He'd burden me with wanting to be a part of throwing the best possible good ole party in the Spirit we saints could ever attend ... A true Holy Ghost REVIVAL ...

My experience thus far has been it's much easier, and folk far more receptive, to gathering for a devil oriented party than a Holy Ghost one ... But forgive me please, there i go being extremist again ... :-?

Anyhow sister D posted this from the sermon and i've used it as a check list to see if i've been accused of any of these;

Some Tangents which can pull us towards extremism:

Ego trips (yes - i'm asked often why i just can't go along with the program)

Emotionalism (yes - i've been told that i'm obsessed with God, tho i think it's the other way round)

Signs/wonders/miracles (no - the kind of miracles many churches seek i don't see enough purity in the Body for such divine manifestations to display)

Local church (no - my loyalty is to Christ first and to the dismay of many i detest denominationalism)

Legalism (yes - i'm told i'm pre-occupied with following rules - but really it's only His rules i'm overly concerned about, if that's possible)

Liberty cult (no - i think so called liberty is a huge part of our spiritual illness)

Prosperity (no - this false gospel irks me to no end and really proves PT Barnum's observation, "A sucker and his money is soon parted")

Perfectionism (yes - ok i admit that i think it's better to be disciplined than not enough ... Pray for me for our Lord is still working on me with this)

i admit that i'm an extremist, just seems tho that these days i'm almost opposite of everything that most other saints i know are extremist for ... This sermon would never make it with a lot of saints i know ...

Blessings in Christ!

Re: - posted by letsgetbusy (), on: 2006/4/4 15:11

Rah,

Have not read all the posts here, but I agree with the spirit of you last one. Wesley was surely labeled a legalist, and I would use his sermon title "Holiness is not Legalism" as a good reference.

He said to enjoy the strictist teaching best. I think many Christians do not judge themselves enough. The plain teaching is:

1 Cor 11:31 "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged."

I think few go too far, but many don't go far enough. It seems like we should take our individual sins more seriously considering that Paul thought he should "die daily."

People viewed Christ, Paul (mover of seditions, sect ringleader), and the prophets as extreme, too. How do I know? Well, they killed them. If people think you go a little too far, you're probably doing alright.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/4/4 20:43

Quote:

----- Â... sister D posted this from the sermon and i've used it as a check list to see if i've been accused of any of these;

Rahman, I see you've used my summery list to form an evaluation of yourself..... Â...oopsÂ...Â.... of how others view you. That, from my understanding of Verwer's sermon is not where he was driving his points. It was not about how others view us, or even how we view ourselves in comparison to others.

I suppose we can make Â"extremistÂ" mean a positive virtue Â— like Jesus was an extremist. But I think we need to dress this word in its original context in Verwer's message, rather than just extract it and then use it bare-naked. I feel we need to respect the spirit of Verwer's message, and the burden that Combat Chuck is carrying. Some of the comments on the thread, to me, seem to suggest a tangent veering off from that. And in the process the punch of the message has been lost. And so has the burden.

Quote:

-----Ego trips (yes - i'm asked often why i just can't go along with the program)

Others could be misjudging, or they could be right. The challenge is knowing the difference. Help, Lord!

Quote:

-----Emotionalism (yes - i've been told that i'm obsessed with God,

While it might not be possible to be too "obsessed" with God, it is possible to be obsessed with certain attributes of God at the exclusion of others. That then becomes extreme.

Quote:

-----Signs/wonders/miracles (no - the kind of miracles many churches seek i don't see enough purity in the Body for such divine manifestations to display) .

The other extreme is lack of faith - scepticism: God doesn't do those kind of miracles today.

Quote:

-----Local church (no - my loyalty is to Christ first and to the dismay of many i detest denominationalism)

But that could be an extreme view that justifies one's refusal to submit to others. God works through local churches.

Quote:

-----Legalism (yes - i'm told i'm pre-occupied with following rules - but really it's only His rules i'm overly concerned about, if that's possible)

I've heard this a lot, by some of the most pharisaic of Pharisees. "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin" – including following the rules" I'm sure you have the balance, though your words may not say it all.

Quote:

-----Liberty cult (no - i think so called liberty is a huge part of our spiritual illness)

This is just another end of the pendulum – as extreme as legalism. It has nothing to do with the freedom that Christ came to give.

Quote:

-----Perfectionism (yes - ok i admit that i think it's better to be disciplined than not enough ... Pray for me for our Lord is still working on me with this)

Still, you can be over the rails on that one too – fleshly. I'm sure that you wish not merely to be more polished and self-reliant in the flesh, but that Christ's perfect character be formed in you.

Quote:

-----I admit that i'm an extremist, just seems tho that these days i'm almost opposite of everything that most other saints i know are extremist for

I know the feeling of being counter-culture – as far as the religious culture goes. The challenge is to avoid the extreme of being a lone ranger and failing to see how God uses all those imperfect people around us to form Christ within me.

Quote:

----- This sermon would never make it with a lot of saints i know ..

And yet it is a welcome relief from the bondage of extremism. It leads to a better balanced life.

Quote:

-----People viewed Christ, Paul (mover of seditions, sect ringleader), and the prophets as extreme, too. How do I know? Well, they killed them.

This is true but not what Verwer speaks about. These people were actually very well balanced, no doubt the result of God's purifying fires - and that's why they could endure such intense opposition-- and not crack up or walk away from God. They keep their eyes on the focus -- the Lord. And they kept the message pure.

Quote:
----- If people think you go a little too far, your probably doing alright.

Not necessarily. They could be right: We could be off the wall, and not see it.

I believe neither Combat, nor Verwer are calling us to justify our "extremism" but to recognize our tendencies to stray off the straight and narrow by excluding certain truths, embracing only our favored doctrines, and then justifying our positions while turning our noses up at the one's on the other end of the pendulum. Eventfully our unbalanced doctrines go over the edge and are no longer Biblical.

Quote:
-----The proper balance is the balance of truth and practice and not taking one aspect of truth to the exclusion of others.

This I believe is what is needed. It is all too easy to embrace a partial truth and not see that we have neglected the balancing truth.

Quote:
----- Wesley was surely labeled a legalist, and I would use his sermon title "Holiness is not Legalism" as a good reference.

I don't know the sermon, but I'd like to suggest that many did end up turning the true pursuit of holiness into extreme conservatism. Gerry Bridges brings the balance back in his book, "The Pursuit of Holiness."

Yikes... what a lot of rambling..

Diane

Re: - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/4/5 1:07

Quote:

I believe neither Combat, nor Verwer are calling us to justify our "extremism" but to recognize our tendencies to stray off the straight and narrow by excluding certain truths, embracing only our favored doctrines, and then justifying our positions while turning our noses up at the one's on the other end of the pendulum. Eventfully our unbalanced doctrines go over the edge and are no longer Biblical.

Diane

This is it. Well said.

Re: - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/4/5 1:23

Quote:

letsgetbusy wrote:

I think few go too far, but many don't go far enough.

Agreed!

Quote:

-----It seems like we should take our individual sins more seriously considering that Paul thought he should "die daily."

Agreed.

Quote:

-----People viewed Christ, Paul (mover of seditions, sect ringleader), and the prophets as extreme, too. How do I know? Well, they killed them.

Our problem is that people in this thread are using different meanings for the term "extremism".

Some of us think extremism is the normal Christian life. Some of us think extremism is somebody who has gone off down the wrong trail. While it appears that these two definitions of extremism disagree with each other, the people using them may not actually be disagreeing.

I believe the perfect life that Jesus lived is THE example and all of us are called to walk exactly as He did. "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" "be holy for I am holy" "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked", etc, etc...

Living exactly as Jesus did is the normal Christian life. Some people call this extreme. I like to call it normal. The standard.

Meanwhile, some think that extremism means that you have gone off in some way that is unbiblical. George mentioned several of them. He called them "tangents"-- dead end streets.

Do you see how we are confusing this discussion with two different meanings of the word "extremism"?

Anyways, I'm not against holiness-- nor am I against the doctrine of Christian perfection. Nor am I against living exactly like Jesus did. Neither is George Verwer. This is what we should be doing. Call this extreme if you want, (and some people will call it extreme, only because they are used to a lower standard that they think is normal-- but is really sub-normal) -- This is the normal Christian life, walking as Jesus walked.

I am not against this. George is not against this... George is against this second definition of extremism, the tangents. This is where we need balance.

Quote:

-----If people think you go a little too far, your probably doing alright.

You could very well be right-- But just be careful. People do not have to think you are going too far to be a sign that you are living the Christian life. From time to time of course it's bound to happen. But it is not something that one should aim for or use to measure their holiness, rightness, Jesusness-- You know what I mean?

Re: - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/4/5 1:51

Here's the article that was referred to by somebody earlier, "<http://www.deerparkwashingtondisciples.net/believers/legalism.html>) Holiness Is Not Legalism" by John Wesley

I thought it was good! :-)

Re: the pendulum or the plumb line - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/4/5 6:28

It's about the pendulum vs the plumb line. The plumb line is God's perfect standard in all things. A plumb line doesn't swing, but a pendulum does.

In the Old Testament, the plumb line referred to God's immovable, unchangeable standard for Israel. Living by this standard would protect them from harming themselves, and also keep them close to God. God declared, "I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line." sa 28:17 In other words, God measured the success of his people according to his fixed standards. Sadly, Israel got completely out of plumb. So God said, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer." Amos 7:7 Because they refused to center their lives on God's plumb line, they reaped the consequence and experienced tough times.

When people don't rest in Christ, God's plumb line, they may dedicate all their energy to seeking what they believe is the most right, most wise way in order to stay on top. Their minds become preoccupied with thoughts about their need to be right, and a craving to make others see and follow the "right" way. They want to push the pendulum to one side as far as they can - no matter what the cost to themselves or anyone else. Perhaps that is why King Solomon said,

"Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise -
why destroy yourself?
Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool -
why die before your time?
It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other.
The man who fears God will avoid all extremes." Ecc. 7: 16 - 18

The far side of the pendulum is an unstable place to be. Life will always feel insecure, filled with fear and mistrust. This is a foolish way to live. We end up making enemies of our friends, our neighbor, our brothers, our fellow worshippers. Relationships turn cold and distant. They even turn into court battles. This is too high a price to pay for our craving to remain on top. No wonder the apostle Paul said, "Why not rather be wronged?" 1 Cor. 6:7

Diane

Re: - posted by Rahman, on: 2006/4/5 9:28

Sis D wrote;

"I suppose we can make "extremist" mean a positive virtue - like Jesus was an extremist. But I think we need to dress this word in its original context in Verwer's message, rather than just extract it and then use it bare-naked. I feel we need to respect the spirit of Verwer's message, and the burden that Combat Chuck is carrying. Some of the comments on the thread, to me, seem to suggest a tangent veering off from that. And in the process the punch of the message has been lost. And so has the burden."

Yikes, i guess i did approach this from a more personal view than i should have ... i didn't mean to veer off and diminish Combat Chuck's burden or the punch of the message ... :-o

Thanks sis D for setting me straight ... :-D

Blessings in Christ,

Bro R

Re: Prone to Wander - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/4/5 16:22

Rahman wrote:

Quote:
-----Yikes, i guess i did approach this from a more personal view than i should have ... i didn't mean to veer off and diminish Combat Ch
uck's burden or the punch of the message ...

I doubt that this tendency to veer into our own creative thinking is unusual for any of us. It's just that it's hard to see we ar
e doing it. I see this as just part of human nature - and perhaps quite harmless for the most part. It could lead to some
wonderful new ideas.

This makes me realize how easy it is to stray off the plumb line, and not know it, because it feel so right. I have often pra
yed, and will continue to pray the words from the hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Diane

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/4/8 12:02

brethren

it seems the balance required in the Faith is in recognizing the seasons. there is a time to war and a time to rest, a time t
o sow and reap and so on. i pray that in in the seeking of this balance that the quest doesn't degenrate to lukewarmness
coz that is the worst thing to be. we should be full tilt for God at all times. i suppose for those who aren't full tilt that may
appear to be extremism (this is being used in a different way than the original context of the word in this discussion) but t
he Lord took the matter of our salvation seriously enough to require a perfect sacrifice in Christ so we should take the Fa
ith in all seriousness even unto death.

balance is essential in working for God and this balance comes from following the leadings of the Lord's Holy Spirit, who
knows and does only the will of God. there are times to work and times to rest and recouperate for the next work.

i pray that in seeking balance we don't confuse that with and/or become lukewarm.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2006/4/8 12:20

Quote:

Graftedbranc wrote:

Quote:
-----Good point... Maybe the question becomes, "Whose" 'balance'?

Amen, one man's "balance" is another man's "extreem".
Graftedbranch

Ah, you nailed it perfectly! you get 5 gold stars for the best quote, of the decade, now if I could just get some bumper stic
kers printed up and stick these on all the cars at Church that would be one good Sunday sermon in itself. :-P

Re: - posted by Rahman, on: 2006/4/12 11:07

Hi all ...

Our Lord has been ministering to me via this thread, especially out of sis D's post "the pendulum or the plumb line" ...

It seems that Eccl. 7:16-18 is as untouched sermonwise as Rom. 9 & Luke 16: 1-13, but here are three that have been of benefit to me ... Especially the first one, in that He surely does have me at this time in "a painful learning process" ...

A painful learning process - Ecclesiastes 7:15-29

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?currSection=&sermonID=42005163511>

The Way of Escape - Ecclesiastes 7:15-18

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?currSection=&sermonID=660418253>

(Through The Bible) Ecclesiastes 7-12 by Chuck Smith - Ecclesiastes7-12

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=6339>

Blessings in Christ Jesus! :-D