

Balanced Belief

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Acts 20:27

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sliders, faders in audio ● Universal 32 constants ● Washing machine ● Riding a bike ● Flat spot car tire, alignment ● Ice skating ● Rowing with one paddle ● Balanced breakfast “complete” <p>Jesus walked on <u>water</u></p> <p><i>Perfect balance of a human body but full of a Heavenly Spirit</i></p>	<p>Mark 6:48-50 - Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."</p>
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[Pray]

<p>In America we like having 2 options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Democrat or Republican ● Coke or Pepsi ● Android or iPhone ● Mac or PC ● Car or SUV 	<p>The third option gets forgotten about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RC Cola ● Linux ● Independent Party ● Wagon <p><i>Truthfully there are a lot more options</i></p>
<p>Our competitive spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● My team vs. your team ● Makes picking a side easier ● Arguing simpler, less nuanced ● Don't think for yourself 	<p>Pitted against each other to distract us from the real enemy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● not left vs. right, it's comm vs. freedom ● Oligarchs vs. average person <p><u>Spiritual battle, not a physical one</u></p>
<p><i>All work and no play makes jack a dull boy</i></p> <p><i>Work first, play later -</i> if taken too much means the kid never plays and misses out on childhood</p>	<p><i>1800s child labor in factories, history growing up on farms, raising families</i></p> <p>Now: kids aren't pushed to grow up remain in adolescence well into adulthood</p>

<p>Is an adult too soon, trauma</p>	<p>Not getting married, no kids, no responsibility</p>
<p>The danger of the pendulum swinging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politics • emotions <p>“Opposite of love? Not hate, apathy”</p> <p><i>Sometimes you find the truth is somewhere in the middle or <u>somewhere else entirely</u></i></p>	<p>There certainly is wrong and right</p> <p>But sometimes it's the option we didn't consider, especially spiritually</p> <p>Something balanced - scripturally</p>
<p>Paul, abased and abounded</p> <p>Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <u>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.</u></p> <p>That's the balance - learning both</p>	<p>Healthy christian maturity</p> <p>Lets him be rich and stay on track, have all his needs met and have peace, and also be shipwrecked and naked and</p> <p>still be in the same place spiritually</p> <p>No matter what comes</p> <p>Grounded in Jesus, the truth</p> <p>This is balanced belief</p>
<p>How about mentally? Genius or insane? Thought life? Emotional stability?</p> <p>James 1:6-8 - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.</p> <p><u>Doubting makes us unstable!</u></p> <p>But doubting because it's uninformed, unadjusted, prayerful - take doubts to God!</p>	<p>“Being well-rounded”</p> <p>Well rounded faith makes you stable!</p> <p>Not stoic and detached</p> <p>Not narcissistic and emotional</p> <p><u>Balanced</u></p> <p>2 Timothy 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.</p> <p>Literally self-controlled, moderation, sanity</p> <p>Many false-faith movements are not logical, insane, ignore the facts</p>

<p>Not throwing all doubt out in “blind” , incorrectly placed faith (faith for faith’s sake)</p>	<p><i>Paul wasn’t healed, Jesus was poor, God made people smart to invent good medicine, Luke was a doctor, etc.</i></p>
<p>Why We Need The <u>whole</u> counsel of God’s Word</p> <p>Acts 20:27 - "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.</p> <p>He hasn’t left anything important out!</p> <p>Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.</p> <p>Isaiah 30:21 - Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.</p>	<p>The Word of God will figure everything out in your heart, mind, life - show the imbalance and set you straight</p> <p><i>This is why we need it - it’s the rock on which we stand, all other ground is sinking sand</i></p> <p>Even right doctrine can be held out of balance, used improperly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Right tool, wrong way Screwdriver hammer ● Right tool, wrong time Band aid, but gotta wash the wound ● Right tool, wrong hands Hunting rifle, untrained child <p><i>Scripture gives clear use - when and where In love. Even right person, right office</i></p>
<p>It’s all <u>God’s</u> word, not ours We need to seek Him in it Know what <u>He’s</u> saying</p> <p>You can’t really know the NT without knowing the OT</p> <p>You can’t unlock prophecy of the future without knowing what God did in the past</p> <p>Calvinism vs. Arminianism The coin is two sided This side of heaven and that side</p> <p><i>I choose side three, they’re both right and both wrong!</i></p>	<p>Someone always talking about a specific issue, doctrine, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They’re right, but do you really need to convince everyone of your view, right now? ● Is that the most important thing, right now? ● Make converts to Christianity or converts of Christians? <p>Isaiah 46:10 - Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'</p>
<p>Is 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your</p>	<p>Thoughts.</p>

<p>thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your</p>	<p>God's perspective is higher than ours We look forward or look back He sees from <u>above</u></p>
<p>A healthy faith takes it <u>all</u> into consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherry picking vs. context • Law of first mention, patterns 	<p>The God who says this also says that</p> <p><u>Not a contradiction, a clarification</u></p> <p>The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible!</p>
<p>So that in mind - what are your views? Are they complete?</p> <p>Counseled by Genesis, Psalms, Matthew, Romans? Revelation?</p> <p>Grace or law? Works or faith?</p>	<p>James 2:17-20 - Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?</p>
<p>Dancing or no dancing? Sin, going nuts</p> <p>Balance of David, self control</p> <p>Dating or arranged marriage? Drums or no drums? Skirts or pants? Child baptism or adult baptism?</p> <p>Slave or free? Higher calling!</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 3:1-6 - And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.</p>
<p>We're not defined by what side of the aisle we're on, we're defined by God's Spirit, Word and Call</p>	<p>Personal conviction vs. Biblical allowance</p> <p>Move past sin or not sin and what's allowed to what's <u>best</u>!</p>

<p>But are we personally twisting scripture to make what we want OK?</p> <p>Or do we let scripture paint the big picture?</p>	<p>The balance... Are we living for this life? Rules, regulations, allowances, freedoms</p> <p>Or the next one? Rewards, eternity, holiness?</p>
<p>Romans 14:5-7 - One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.</p> <p>Is the difference worth the division? Some, yes. Others, certainly not.</p>	<p>How many Christian arguments are more about convincing the other person to take our view vs. the scriptural view? To boost yourself or to lead them to the Lord?</p> <p>Correction is important, and necessary, “iron sharpens iron”</p> <p>Having balanced belief means that if Jesus is your savior, you're going to heaven. And we'll all be completely correct and mature then!</p>
<p>1 Corinthians 12:27-31 NKJV - Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.</p>	<p>Then 1 cor 13...LOVE</p> <p>Balanced belief is loving belief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loving Jesus ● His Word ● His church <p>Not the love of being correct The love of leading others closer</p>
<p>Gifts or cessation? Pastor paid? Elder rule? Membership? No demonic activity to everything is? Miracles? Healings?</p> <p>Do you want to hear God speak? <i>You don't need a prophet. You just need the Bible. Then you'll see who's a real prophet! But we prefer men's words of wisdom</i></p>	<p>The point of a system is what it does</p> <p><u>What does your doctrine do?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does it puff you or someone else up? ● Does it pour guilt on, unworthiness? <p>Does it lead you closer to Jesus?</p> <p>That's all I want from anything and anyone - for them and myself.</p>

<i>over God's!</i>	
<p>Our positions on a lot of these topics really do two things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reveal our hearts • Reveal our relationship with Jesus • Saved by grace or legalistic works 	<p>Is Jesus first our Savior, friend, love Or our boss, judge, taskmasker</p>

<p><i>Modern music vs. hymns</i> <i>Hymns invented 1600 years after Jesus...</i></p> <p><i>KJV Only!</i> <i>Based on Greek and Hebrew...English didn't exist in Jesus' day...great translation, but not the only good one</i></p>	<p>“So spiritually minded no earthly good”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you have a normal conversation? • Or are you compensating in your flesh? • Can you be sensitive to not saying something and bold to say something?
<p>God's truth is always in balance The fulcrum is God's own agape love Not our idea of love</p> <p>And balance doesn't mean in agreement with the world - or even each other</p> <p>We can agree to disagree</p>	<p>Shadrach, Mesach, Abednego <i>“God can, but he might not, either way...”</i></p> <p><i>Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil</i> <i>Tree of Life</i> ... <i>Third Tree, the Cross</i> <i>Both put together</i></p>

That's Balanced Belief

God sending His son for us

Because He is love and we have no way out on our own

Doing the impossible for us, could have easily passed us by

But instead he came down and saved us