

Jan.
8,
2012

TCC YOUTH

For Small Groups & Personal Study

Triangle Community Church
Student Ministry

Daily Exposure to
God's Word



Monday

[Ephesians 1:15-23](#)

Pray these verses for you and your family everyday this week as you seek to find Christ's balance in your life.

Tuesday

[Hebrews 10:19-25](#)

As we draw near to God today with a sincere heart how can you spur others around you on to love and good deeds?

Wednesday

[1 Peter 3:8-22](#)

As you live in the world you will have struggles. Remind yourself today to be prepared for every opportunity that comes your way to share God's truth and love.

Thursday

[1 John 2:15-17](#)

What are some things in the world that you are loving that seem to be a hinderance to your growth in Christ? Pray for God to enable you to desire Him more than those things today.

Friday

[Romans 12:1-2](#)

How can you apply these to verses to your life this week?

LOPSIDED CHRISTIANITY

PART 2: CHRIST'S CALL TO BALANCE

How Can I Possibly have a Balanced Life?

Life today is so much more complicated and fast paced than it was just a generation ago. And that means we have more roles and more responsibilities these days, but we still have the same amount of hours in the day. It's tough to keep up with all the demands let alone make all the different areas of our lives balance. Even more, we want to find a life that balances with Christ.

As we look at week 2 in our Series, Lopsided Christianity, we will address our need for Balance and what that looks like using 1 Peter 2:1-17. There are 3 main areas we need balance in our relationship with God:

- 1) Balance the individual and corporate aspects of the Christian life,
- 2) Balance worship and witness in the Christian life, and
- 3) Balance our call to separation and our call to involvement.

Each of these 3 areas has 2 aspects to living out truth. When one of these aspects are not in line we find ourselves out of balance and lopsided. Please use these verses to the left each day to help reinforce each of these truths and enable us to live in a way that is not lopsided and out of balance.

On the back we encourage you to take the group study with your family or community group and begin to apply the truths from the message to your daily life. How does not living in balance affect your family, friends, school, job, life?

Take some time and read 1 Peter 2:1-17 and meditate on it this week.

By going through our talking points and reading the daily verses we can help keep Balance in our life and allow us not to be Lopsided in our Christianity.

Group Questions

Connect with Others

1. What do you think it means for someone to be out of balance in their life? What are some areas you are out of balance in your life?

2. What do you think it means for someone to have **Balanced Biblical Christianity**? How difficult is it to have this balance? Why do you think it is difficult for people?

Dig in the Message

3. Read "Who do you Lean On?" and discuss the questions with your group or family.

4. Which area of your spiritual life do you feel more confident in, your worship or your witness? Why do you think you lean that way? Read "Balancing Worship & Witness" and discuss.

5. What do you have more trouble with, blending in with the world in some ways, or distancing yourself from the world? What is the problem with losing balance in this area? Read "In or Out of the World?" and discuss with your group.

Apply and Transform

6. Do most people have a tendency for imbalance in these areas of their lives? Why do you think that is?

7. Knowing that we have this tendency what can we do to help us recognize this and get balanced?

8. Take a few moments to talk about what areas each of you are more out of balance in and then pray for one another.

9. Take time this week to read the daily verses on the front & get Balanced!

Part 2: Christ's Call to Balance

Scripture Memory

Hebrews 10:24-25, "*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*"

Who Do You Lean On?

Being with other Christians is how God intended for us to encourage each other to grow in our walk with God and cope with life. However, God desires for us to also pursue Him in our personal time. Having one without the other creates an unbalance in our lives. Take a minute with your group and talk about how these 2 areas are both important but also connected to each other.

It is important for us to not make the mistake of neglecting the fellowship of other Christians by concentrating exclusively on our own private devotional life, but equally let's not neglect our own private devotion by emphasizing the Christian fellowship.

Read Hebrews 10:19-25 together and Answer the questions below with your group or family.

Are you someone who tends to lean more on others when you are struggling or are you someone who likes to just handle it by yourself? What are the benefits of leaning on others? What are the benefits to trying to handle things yourself? What happens when you focus too much one of these ways to help you grow spiritually rather than the other? What should we do to help us balance our desire to do things on our own and our desire to depend upon others for our growth?

Christians constantly manifest the tendency to firmly hold one aspect of the truth & forget the truth that complements it, & without which, the truth which we are holding so firmly becomes lopsided.

Balancing Worship & Witness

When you come to think about it, both Worship & Witness involves the other. Worship **drives us out** to witness, for worship is a recognition of the infinite worth of Almighty God. And that recognition drives us out to bring others to worship him, and to give to him the glory that is his due.

And when we go out to witness it is **in order to bring people to worship**. So **worship drives us to witness**, and **witness leads to worship**, and we have almost a continuous circle.

Read 1 Peter 2:5, & 9 and discuss how these verses relate to both Worship & Witness. What is Peter telling us about our Worship & our Witness? When you worship, are you fully engaged? Is your focus on God and his goodness and his greatness, or are you just going through the

In or Out of the World?

It is very dangerous for us to walk out of balance in this area of our Christian growth. If we are too much in the world we will not be producing the fruitful life that God desires for us and if we live too much out of the world then we miss building redemptive relationships with those around us so that they can know this God we know and love.

To find balance in this area God is asking all of us to walk a very fine line between being actively and properly involved "in" the world so we can reach and help other people – but at the same time making sure that we do not fall too deep and too far into the world where we then start to fall into the actual evil, depravity, and corruptness of this world.

Read 1 Peter 2:11. What is the difference between the flesh and the soul? What are the things that cause our flesh to want to live like the world? How we can still be the light of the world and yet separate ourselves from how the world lives?