

Biblical Love and Truth Must Be Balanced?

John 8:3-11 Rev. Tom Parrish

When Love or Truth become overbalanced in one direction or the other, how do we balance our behavior to reflect Jesus in today's world?

If we get overbalanced on Christian love we will end up out of balance with the bible and lead people astray. How often have you heard another Christian say *The goal of Christianity is LOVE?* No, that's not true. On the other hand if we get overbalanced with truth we will do exactly the same thing.

It is only **when truth and love are kept in perfect balance** that we: speak for the Lord Jesus, keep the proper focus on him, fulfill his mission and bring life to hurting, dying people.

Keeping Love & Truth in Balance

It is only when Love and Truth are kept in balance that the message of the Bible is accurately and effectively proclaimed.



John 8:3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

The Pharisees believed that following Yahweh meant obeying the law to a point of legalism. They were overbalanced on the truth but the love was missing.

Matthew 22: 37 And Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

On the other hand the Jewish religious leaders had developed a system of 613 laws, 365 negative commands and 248 positive laws...

OVERBALANCED ON LOVE

Too many bought into the Beale's theology that *"All you need is love, love, all you need is love!"*

LOVE AND TRUTH IN BALANCE

Leviticus 20:10 'If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.

In fact, the Bible says that **6b** *But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.*



7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.....Ophs....."

IT IS RIGHT AT THIS POINT WE DISCOVER THE HEART OF JESUS

10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

11 "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

But that is not the end of the story. Unfortunately there are too many people who want the story to end there and say, **"See, all you need is love."**

Jesus adds *these words*, **"Go now and leave your life of sin."**

Our challenge as believers in Jesus is that We need to keep love and truth balanced!

DEFINE BIBLICAL TRUTH! *BIBLICAL TRUTH IS WHAT JESUS HAS REVEALED ABOUT HIMSELF, PEOPLE, SIN, DEATH AND THE LIFE TO COME.*

DEFINE BIBLICAL LOVE! *BIBLICAL LOVE IS A TOTAL CONSISTENT RESPONSE OF THANKFULNESS TO THE LOVE AND GRACE WE HAVE BEEN SHOW IN JESUS CHRIST.*

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Our Greatest Danger!

Overbalanced toward love = compassion without accuracy.

Overbalanced toward truth = accuracy without compassion.

The Bible always balances love and truth. We can also keep it balanced and honor Jesus by always remembering and intentionally following this insight:

***WHEN I LOVE I MUST BRING ALONG THE TRUTH,
AND WHEN I SPEAK THE TRUTH
IT MUST BE WITH LOVE.***

Prayer of Balance

While we are all capable of expressing truth and love, tell Jesus right now which direction you lean toward in life: truth or love!

Ask Him, in this moment of silence, to give you balance, to make you inwardly aware, and to honor Him by making truth and love one behavior.

Prayers for this week:

Jesus keep truth and love at the very center of my relationship with you. Let your love shine in me and your truth come from my lips in all circumstances.

Jesus, teach me how to put together my spiritual gifts, my temperament, and my passion so that I honor you and truly become your Ambassador of Reconciliation to a broken, hurting, lost world.

