

SPIRITUAL DEFECTS #4 "Limbs Too Long"

Lev 21:16-18

Series: Lev 21:16-24 Those not to minister in the temple - physical defects. Physical of the OT is the spiritual of the NT. things that will hinder us from ministering as men of God. Today: Limb too long - Those who are imbalanced.

I. THE TENDENCY TO IMBALANCE

A. There is a common human tendency towards being imbalanced

1. Imbalance: Lack of proportion; Too much weight given to one side/one area

a. Martin Luther: People are like drunken peasants, always falling off one side of the donkey or the other

B. Look at some common areas of imbalance:

1. **Witness vs. work:** The desire to witness – good! Work: Necessary

a. The one who lets witnessing stop his work; Or is a lousy worker but a great witness

2. **Work vs. worship:** When we allow working for the Lord take the place of the Lord Himself!

a. Consumed with ministry – no time to pray; Finding sermon ideas but not reading the Bible/feed yourself

3. **Ministry vs. family:** The most difficult balance of all

a. Being involved – but meeting the needs of your wife/children

1. In 20 ministries: Wife angry – she's holding me back!

C. This plays out in Pastors in their preaching/teaching

1. Emphasizing small issues/things that can't be proven

a. Christmas/Easter – Pagan! b. The cross was above a cave where Ark hidden – blood dripped on mercy seat!

c. Boycott Safeway: The 'S' in their logo stands for Satan!

1. 1 Timothy 1:4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

2. Making a big deal out of issues no one is dealing with – or that is not your purpose

a. Preaching/railing on homosexuality in Pioneer church b. Protesting porno stores c. Politics

II. THE RESULTS OF IMBALANCE

A. The scripture is clear: An imbalanced person will not be a good minister/Pastor!

1. Lev 21:18 any man who has a defect shall not approach: a man blind or lame, who has a marred face or any limb too long,

B. The danger of neglect: If you overemphasize small/irrelevant things – you'll fail to emphasize good things!

1. Family: Fail to give wives/children attention & love they need to survive/thrive

a. Produces anger/resentment: Not because they're unspiritual/evil!

2. Church: Imbalanced Pastors don't feed the flock with the whole counsel of God

a. Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

1. Issues they need to avoid – encouragement they need

C. The damage of credibility: Believable; To believe your words/able to be trusted/convincing

1. Other people will not take your words seriously because of your imbalanced words & actions

a. Why listen to your witness when you're a lousy worker? b. Wives not excited when you announce you're going for God!

III. GAINING BALANCE

A. The great need is for balance: An even distribution of weight, allowing someone or something to remain upright or steady

1. **There are things to be avoided:** 1 Timothy 4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables...

a. Novelties/doctrines that are not clear/controversial issues in certain settings

2. **There are things to be sought:** 1 Timothy 4:7 ...and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

a. God Himself – in prayer and the word: To feed your soul – not just to get a sermon

b. Mark 6:31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

1. Old saying: Came ye apart – before you come apart! 2. You can't do everything/go 100 miles an hour every day

B. Overall: What's needed is men who can think

1. Is this an important issue? What will this produce? How am I doing? How is my wife/family doing?

a. Did I see my pastor do this? b. Is this emphasized across Christianity – or across time

1. A mark of false or imbalanced teaching is that "not many know this..."

2. Jesus is our ultimate example

a. Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

1. Different/competing issues/needs – he kept them in balance!