

Finding Balance

(Matt 22:37-39;
Mk 6:30-32; Lk 9:10)



How should we live a well-balanced Christian life?

1. Jesus Christ is the Lord of our lives. (Eph 1:22; Matt 22:37-39)

a. There is no balance in importance or percentage
(comparing Jesus Christ to other areas of our lives)

b. Jesus Christ is the Lord (Head) over all areas of our lives (Eph 1:22).

Ephesians 1:22

²⁰ He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens — ²¹ far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

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b. Jesus Christ is the Lord (Head) over all areas of our lives (Eph 1:22).

c. **Jesus Christ wants the all of you & me (Matt 22:37-39).**

He's our full-time God!

(He wants the whole of your life and my life to be His – all that you are and do, all that I am and do.)

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Matthew 22:37-40. Love the Lord with all that we are & do.

³⁷ He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the greatest and most important command. ³⁹ The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

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1Corinthians 10:31

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

Mark 8:34

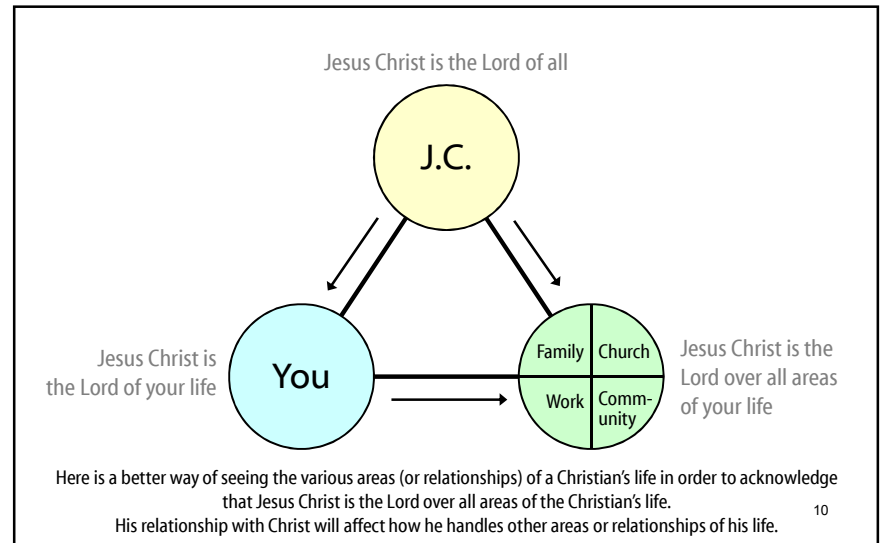
³⁴ Calling the crowd along with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me and the gospel will save it.

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Here's one way of prioritizing the important areas (or relationships) of a Christian's life: God first, family second, ... Since Jesus Christ is the Lord (Head) over all areas of our lives. Therefore, a different way of seeing this is necessary.

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Here is a better way of seeing the various areas (or relationships) of a Christian's life in order to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Lord over all areas of the Christian's life. His relationship with Christ will affect how he handles other areas or relationships of his life.

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d. This is the nature of our new life in Christ.

(It's actually not an overwhelming burden to commit to walk with Christ in all areas of our lives. Because, it's simply the new nature of our new life in Christ. In fact, we'll feel that something is missing in our lives if we do otherwise. e.g. if we stop being thankful to Christ for our salvation, or if we stop thanking God for His care & provisions, we'll feel that something is missing.)

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1. Jesus Christ is the Lord of our lives. (Eph 1:22; Matt 22:37-39)

2. Bring our lives into balance in order to witness Jesus as Lord of our lives. (Mk 6:30-32; Lk 9:10)

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Mark 6:30-34. Break away to rest; find time for Christ

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, “Come away [with me] by yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while.” For many people were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

³² So they went away in the boat by themselves to a remote place, ³³ but many saw them leaving and recognized them, and they ran on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

³⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

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Luke 9:10-11

¹⁰ When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus all that they had done. He took them along and withdrew privately to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹ When the crowds found out, they followed him. He welcomed them, spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

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1. Jesus Christ is the Lord of our lives. (Eph 1:22; Matt 22:37-39)

2. Bring our lives into balance in order to witness Christ as the Lord of our lives. (Mk 6:30-32; Lk 9:10)

a. Jesus Christ asked His disciples to come away with Him in order to rest from ministering to the crowd. So that, His disciples could find physical rest, but they could also have their much needed alone-time with Christ. (Mk 6:30-32; Lk 9:10)

b. Therefore, prioritize your activities according to your most important roles. So that, in order that (purposefully), you'll have time & energy for Christ – your alone-time with Him.

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Today the Christian emphasis falls heavily on the “active” life.... The favorite brand of Christianity is that sparked by the man in a hurry, hard hitting, aggressive and ready with the neat quip. We are neglecting the top side of our souls. The light in the tower burns dimly while we hurry about the grounds below, ...

-- A.W. Tozer

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Let us bring our lives into balance, so that we may have more time for Christ, that we may witness to the world that He is the Lord of our lives.

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Sharing & Praying Together

- In what way is Jesus Christ the Lord (Head) of your life outside of Sunday church?

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