



# Striking the Balance

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# Introduction



## 2 Timothy 2:15

**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

An important characteristic of Calvary Chapel Fellowships is our desire not to divide God's people over non-essential issues. This is not to say that we do not have strong convictions. When the Bible speaks clearly, we must as well. But on other issues we try to recognize the Scriptural validity of both sides of a debate and avoid excluding or favoring those in one camp over the other.

# Introduction



Our Emphasis on the PRIORITY OF THE WORD will cause us to see both sides to many non-essential issues.

As we study the WORD we will inevitably face issue that we may have a hard time reconciling.

As we study the WORD we will inevitable come to strong convictions of certain issues.

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# Ministry of the Holy Spirit



TYPICAL PENTECOSTAL VIEW NOR DO WE TAKE A TYPICAL BAPTIST VIEW

- THE BAPTIST WILL CONSIDER US PENTECOSTAL...
- THE PENTECOSTAL WILL CONSIDER US BAPTIST...

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# Calvinism — Arminian



## FIVE-POINT CALVINISTS:

- WE DO BELIEVE IN THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER
- WE DON'T BELIEVE IN LIMITED ATONEMENT
- WE DO BELIEVE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

## ARMINIAN:

- WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN LOSE YOUR SALVATION
- WE BELIEVE IN THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS
- WE BELIEVE MAN HAS A FREE MORAL AGENCY

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# Calvinism — Arminian



I believe that the Scripture teaches both the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man.

If you take either of these positions to an extreme, to the denying of the other, then you've got a real problem because the Scriptures teach both.

But then you might ask, "How can we reconcile them?" I don't. I don't have to.

# Calvinism — Arminian



THE application: is seen clearly in how we minister to specific people with specific needs.

When I come across a person living in fornication, in adultery, or walking after the flesh and he says, “Don’t worry about me, man! I accepted Christ at a Billy Graham crusade when I was a kid.” Yet the person is a drunkard and fornicator. But he says, “Once I’ve been saved I’m always saved! So don’t worry about me.” Believe me, I’m going to rattle that guy’s cage as best I can. I’m going to take him to Galatians 5 where the Bible talks about the works of the flesh. At the end of that listing the Bible declares, “As I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:21). I’ll take him to Corinthians and to Ephesians. I’ll show him where those who are living after the flesh and devoted to living after the fallen nature’s desires, are not going to inherit the kingdom of God.

# Calvinism — Arminian



THE application: is seen clearly in how we minister to specific people with specific needs.

Yet, on the other hand, if I'm speaking to saints with an oversensitive conscience who, every time they mess up and do something wrong, feel that they've lost their salvation, I'm going to take them to the Scriptures that give us the assurance of God's love. I'll show them how Christ is holding them and that no man can pluck them out of the Father's hand. I'm going to take them to the passages that will give them assurance.



# Calvinism — Arminian



THE application: is seen clearly in how we minister to specific people with specific needs.

So the position I take on the issue all depends on the condition of the person I'm talking to. I can take either side and argue it ad infinitum. I can trade Scriptures with people on both sides of the issue. I can let you choose what side you want, and I'll take the other side. I can produce as many Scriptures and make as good an argument as you can.

# Calvinism — Arminian



“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” —(Isaiah 55:8-9).



# Ventures of Faith

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# Introduction to Venture of Faith



“But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. —(Hebrew 11:6).

It's always an exciting thing to give God a chance to work. God wants you to be a part of what He is doing. God doesn't want to stop working, so it's important for us to discover what He wants to do. I have found that the way we discover how God wants to work is to venture out in faith. We need to step out and see what the Lord might do. But, as we step out in faith, there has to be a guard against presumption. A lot of people who test the waters to see what God might want to do make a serious mistake by falling back on human effort when God's hand obviously is not in it. Sometimes we can get so committed to something that our reputation seems to be on the line. Then we start pumping extra energy and effort into a program that wasn't of God to begin with.

# Introduction to Venture of Faith



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So, they took a venture in faith. It's having a mindset that says, “Let's see if God wants to work today. Let's see what God might want to do today.” It's simply making your- self available.

# Introduction to Venture of Faith



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# Venture of Faith



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# Completing Foundations Course



Foundations to GROWING —Foundations to Calvary —Statement of Faith

Foundations to GROWING:

## 1. GROWING IN LIFE

- A. Immersed in the WORD
- B. Connected through PRAYER
- C. Living in COMMUNITY
- D. SPIRIT-Filled Life
- E. SERVING His Kingdom
- F. SPREADING the Good News

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# Completing Foundations Course



Foundations to GROWING —Foundations to Calvary —Statement of Faith

Foundations to GROWING:

## 1. GROWING IN TRUTH

- A. Doctrine of God
- B. Doctrine of Humanity
- C. The Person and Work of Christ
- D. The Kingdom of God
- E. Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
- F. SPREADING the Good News

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