

mastered with such difficulty. We are often under the tyranny of the immediate and hesitant to see what precedent is being established or to ask to what point it will lead.

Balance

The second area of principle is somewhat hard to define in any precise way yet its importance is apparent. The essential characteristic is that of having relatively equal emphasis on the various aspect of life and witness. Perhaps it is easier to detect imbalance and learn the principles in reverse! But it is notable that progress is difficult without balance although immediate gains may come quickly in some areas.

The "Pietist problem" comes to light in church history when an anti-intellectual thrust calls for a minimizing of precise study and a maximizing of heart worship and feeling. These concepts are by no means diametrically opposed but a very heavy emphasis given to the one with a lack of attention to the other will always produce a less-than-healthy Christianity. Neither the scholastic ideals nor the quietist emotion must be allowed a dominant role in Christian life and development. Both have valuable contributions and are needed for the whole.

It may be impossible to attain total balance in individuals but it should at least be sought in the group. A societal direction to that end is preferable and as a general principle we are instructed that we will not prosper without it. Our history suggests that the search for balance is rarely popular. It is, however, one of these points where the quest is perhaps as important as the attainment.

Evaluation of Issues

The principle is that of learning to discern matters of relative size and importance in various issues and so learning where to take up a challenge and other issues. The problem is one of the proportional size of issues and the determination of the relative importance of related matters. Issue evaluation is necessary in this regard to keep us in line with the exercise of our strengths. When one cannot fight every battle it is important to be selective and concentrate the expense of energy where success is most likely. One must seek to learn from history (and the Scriptures) what the weighty issues are and what things are merely argumentative luxuries.

Unfortunately this is not accomplished in a leisurely manner. In recent years we have undergone a furor over Bible translations. While it is not simple to analyze these complicated affairs, it should be apparent that this is a minor issue as compared with how the Bible is used. Corrupted translations have occurred throughout the long history of the church. No general following seems to accrue to these and they pass from the scene. Additionally the permissible variations in translation ideal are many and the great antagonism that greeted the King James Bible was lost as better understanding of the work of translation developed. The issue, therefore,