



LESSON 05: LIVING A BALANCED FAITH

Practical Application

Practical Steps

I. Learn to see systems.

- "Systemic racism" vs. "heart change" or "not allpeople"
- ""It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important." – Martin Luther King, Jr.
- The church is a system. One body, many parts.

→ [Romans 12:4-5](#)

⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

II. Take what responsibility I can, even if I feel defensive.

- How have I contributed to or perpetuated the problem?
- Is my silence or inaction contributing to the problem (Obadiah)?

→ [James 4:17](#)

¹⁷If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

III. Don't make "personal rights" an idol.

- Thankful for American Bill of Rights.
- What is God's word for *all* Christians, even those who live without a bill of rights? The first century Christians?

→ [Jeremiah 29:7](#)

⁷...seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

IV. Imitate Jesus

→ [Philippians 2:3-8](#)

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!