

Today's Scripture Reading:



Matthew 10:16

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***Are You Living a Life of
Balanced Contradictions?***

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MLK quotes an unnamed French philosopher who says, "No man is strong unless he bears within his character antitheses strongly marked"

Antitheses: is a rhetorical device in which 2 opposite ideas are put together in a sentence to achieve a contrasting effect.

MLK says that “life at its best is a creative synthesis of opposites in fruitful harmony.”

- **Luke 9:23:** take up your cross vs. **Phil 4:4:** rejoice always
- **Eph 2:8:** for by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourself but a gift from God vs. **Phil 2:12:** work out your own salvation
- **Romans 12:1:** living sacrifice
- **Hebrews 11:32-38:** faith hall of fame

- ***Tough-minded***
- ***Tenderheartedness***

3 Characteristics of Being Tough-minded

1. An incisive thinker

- a. Can you clearly identify the core of an issue eliminating the fluff of unnecessary verbiage or irrelevant ideas?

2. Able to realistically appraise a situation

- a. Setting aside personal preferences, dispositions and other external influences are you able to judge a given idea or circumstance for what it is, not what it should be or appears to be by its façade of pretense?

3 Characteristics of Being Tough-minded

3. Decisive judgment

- a. Do you waver, having second guessed yourself or once the facts have been heard and carefully discerned can you solidly and with sound reason, make a decision?
- b. Pre and Post judging.

Simple-minded

1. Are led

- a. Distracted: Pleasure and self-indulgence clutter their minds with no time for discipline of thought
- b. Have chosen path of least thinking
- c. Don't like change as it creates a necessity of re-evaluation
- d. Tradition over truth. Ravi Z rice vs bread
- e. I use emotion for the masses but reason for the few.

Who said it?

Tenderhearted

1. Balances Tough Mindedness

- a. Assists decision making by adding mercy vs. strictness to adherence of "x"
- b. Creates a healthy balance perspective so cold-heartedness cannot creep in
- c. Smiles vs. scorn on faces of Christians as we deal with worldly-minded neighbors
- d. Sees others as people more than "wheels in the cog of life" so we engage as such

We must

- a. Engage
- b. Discern
- c. Embrace humility

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