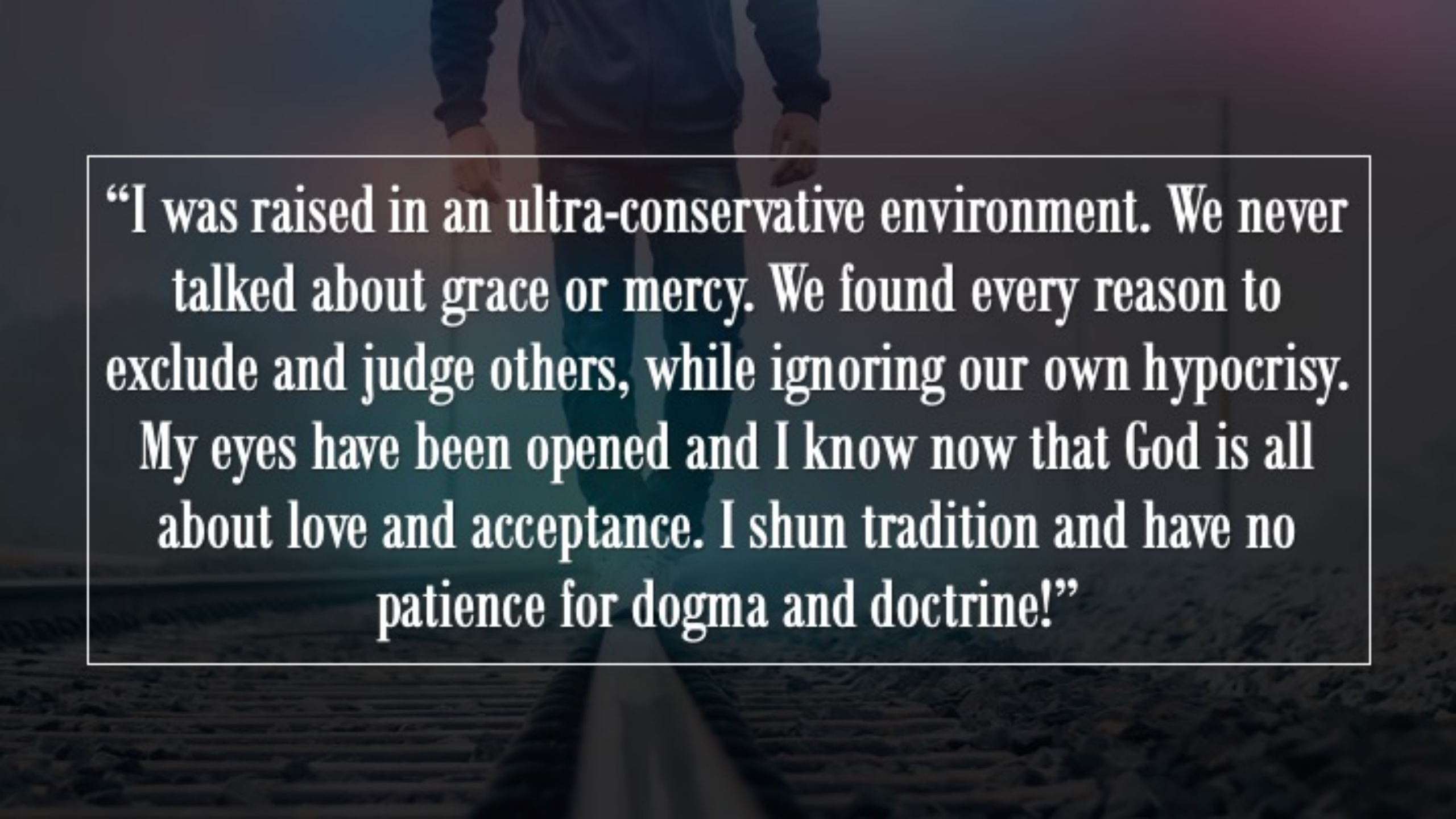
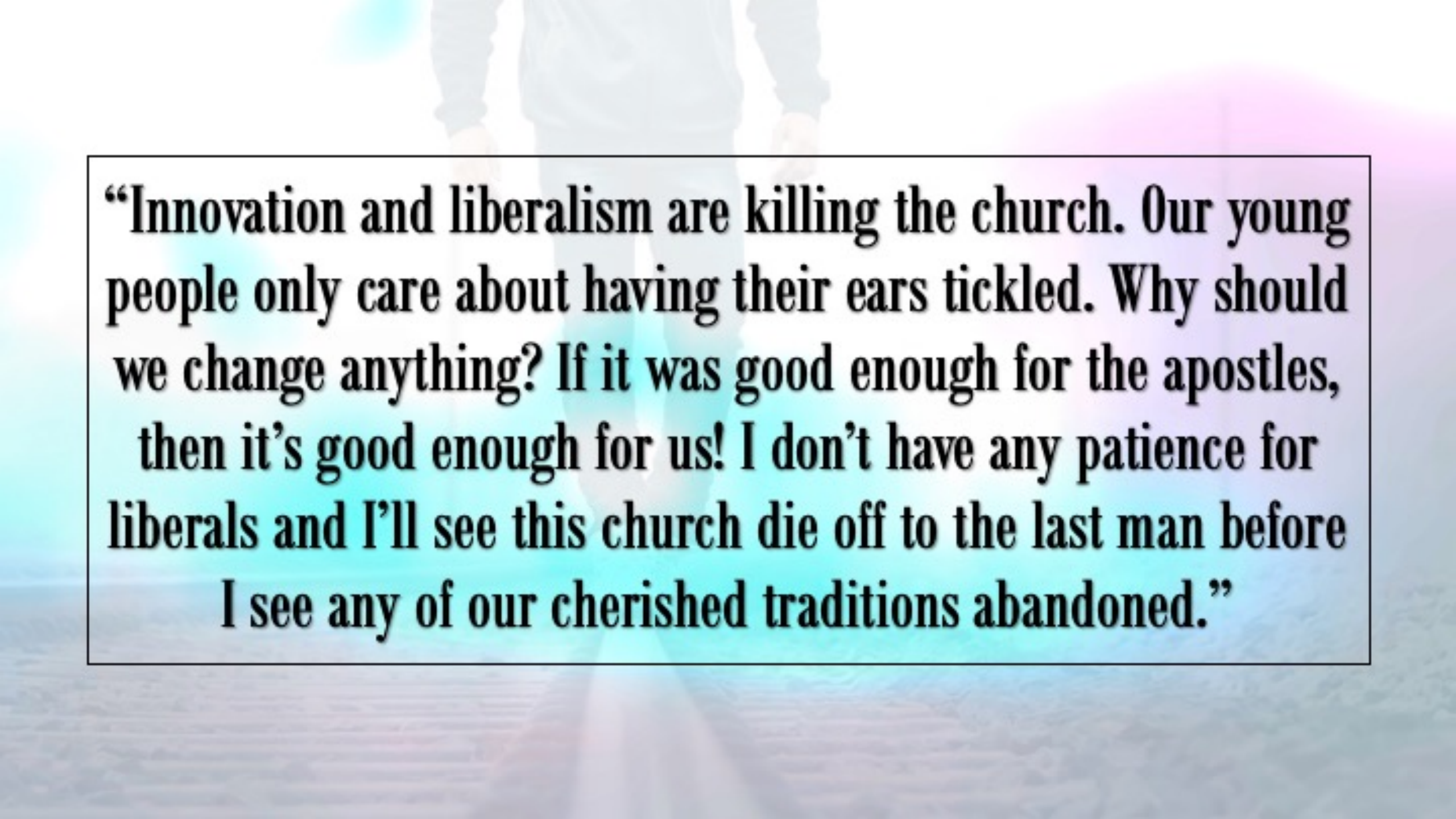


A person in a blue jacket and dark pants is walking a tightrope. The background is a hazy, colorful sky with a gradient from blue to orange. The tightrope is a thick, dark rope stretching across the frame. The person's feet are visible as they balance on the rope.

maintain
BALANCE

A person is walking away from the camera on a sandy beach. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background shows the ocean and a sunset sky with soft, warm colors. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font, enclosed in a thin white rectangular border.

“I was raised in an ultra-conservative environment. We never talked about grace or mercy. We found every reason to exclude and judge others, while ignoring our own hypocrisy. My eyes have been opened and I know now that God is all about love and acceptance. I shun tradition and have no patience for dogma and doctrine!”



“Innovation and liberalism are killing the church. Our young people only care about having their ears tickled. Why should we change anything? If it was good enough for the apostles, then it’s good enough for us! I don’t have any patience for liberals and I’ll see this church die off to the last man before I see any of our cherished traditions abandoned.”


Maintain balance

- Individualism vs. Collectivism
- Faith only vs. Obedience only
- Worship that is “by the book” vs. worship that is emotionally powerful
- Legalism vs. “who cares?!”
- Traditionalism vs. Neophilia
- God is love vs. God is vengeance
- Science vs. Genesis
- Hating sinners/intolerance/self-righteousness vs.
Embracing sinners without judgment/tolerating everything

Consider an example...

“God is all-loving, so He loves everybody equally, including the LGBT community. Love means accepting people how they are and not judging.” However, while it’s true that God is love (1 John 4:8), that love must be defined in a way that is consistent with other qualities of God. “God disciplines those He loves” (Hebrews 12:5-7). God loved Israel greatly, but refused to turn a blind eye to their sins (Isaiah 30:9-18), noting that He is equally a “God of justice.” Also see Psalm 94:1.



A person wearing a blue jacket and jeans is walking on a tightrope. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with utility poles. The image has a teal and blue color cast. On the left side, there is a dark, jagged silhouette that looks like a torn piece of paper or a shadow.

The only thing worse
than an
outright lie
about God, is
misrepresenting
Him with half-truths.

Jesus & Balance

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- He said, “Judge not...” (Matthew 7:1) but later stated, “Judge with righteous judgment” (John 7:24).
- “Love your enemies” (Matthew 5:44) but hold sinners accountable and never compromise truth (John 8:11, 8:21-24, 5:14, Luke 17:3-4).



MATTHEW 7:13-14

PROVERBS 4:27

JOSHUA 23:6

ECCLESIASTES 7:16-18

stepping

CAREFULLY

Extremely Christian

- Aren't there times when extremism is called for? Certainly! See 2 Corinthians 8:2, Revelation 3:19, 2 Timothy 1:7, Titus 2:14, and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22.

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- Aren't there times when extremism is called for? Certainly! See 2 Corinthians 8:2, Revelation 3:19, 2 Timothy 1:7, Titus 2:14, and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22.
- But we must use wisdom, since zeal for the sake of zeal isn't necessarily a good thing! Zeal without knowledge (Romans 10:2), ruining the impressionable (Matthew 23:15), being gung-ho for evil without even realizing it (Galatians 1:14, Acts 26:9).

A few tips to help you **FIND BALANCE**

- Be careful not to let guilt over previously-held extreme beliefs cause you to “over-correct.”

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- Be careful not to let guilt over previously-held extreme beliefs cause you to “over-correct.”
- Be wary of party-ism and politics and the tendency to vilify, over-generalize, craft caricatures, etc.
- Paul was “all things to all men” (1 Cor. 9:22). If you’re not required by God to be dogmatic about something, don’t be — you might help save a soul!

