A Question Of Balance

Introduction: Jesus confronted some with an apparent Scriptural dilemma in Matthew 22:41-45. The Christ is both, the Son of David and his Lord, for through birth he is a descendant, but through His divinity He is God to David. On another occasion, the devil tempted Jesus with one Scripture, but Jesus’ response was quoting another Scripture for balance and accuracy. There are quite a few places in Scripture that balance is needed. To draw conclusions based on only one side is dangerous, folly and poor Bible study.

1. Providing Your Living (Working)
   One Side - I Timothy 5:8; II Thessalonians 3:10
   Other Side - John 6:27; Matthew 6:24-25
   Balance - Proverbs 23:4-5; 30:7-9

2. Showing Hospitality
   One Side - Hebrews 13:2; I Peter 4:9; I Timothy 5:10
   Other Side - Luke 10:38-42
   Balance - Remember your priorities

3. Taking Care Of Yourself Physically
   One Side - Mark 6:31; Ephesians 5:29
   Other Side - I Timothy 4:8; Matthew 4:1-4; Mark 3:20-21
   Balance - Keep the physical concerns small compared to the spiritual.

4. Love Of Family
   One Side - Ephesians 5:25,28 (Husbands) Titus 2:4-5 (Wives)
   Other Side - Luke 14:26
   Balance - Never let love of family come between you and serving God.

5. Doing Good Works
   One Side - Titus 2:14; 3:14; Philippians 2:12
   Other Side - Ephesians 2:8-9
   Balance - When we become a Christian all the activities (works) God requires us to perform are conditions of salvation and do not merit anything. Also, no works of the OT law will save. After our baptism, we do good works because we are saved, not in order to be saved.
6. Operating In An Adverse World
   One Side - Matthew 10:16
   Other Side - Matthew 10:16
   Balance - Christians are not to be naive. Though they never resort to evil tactics to overcome evil, they still should exercise wise judgment in dealing with people. Eg. Do not cast pearls before swine. Paul’s avoidance of some problems though having Timothy circumcised. Never do anything that would harm a person. And remember, evil companions corrupt good morals.

7. Pleasing Men
   One Side - Romans 15:1-2
   Other Side - Galatians 1:10
   Balance - When good conscience will allow, we ought to live peaceably with all men, submit to authorities, and be willing to yield to the preferences of others. A servant of all. But, if God’s will is in question, we must obey God rather than men. God’s will must never be compromised.

8. Tolerating Others
   One Side - Gal. 5:22
   Other Side - Galatians 2:4-5
   Balance - Similar to the previous point, love suffers long with all kinds of “grief” where conscientiously possible, but some sin is such that tolerating sin is sinful. Eg. Paul says elders who sin are to rebuked before the rest of the church. While on the other hand, sins of individual weakness may be addressed different. Read Jude 22-23.

Conclusion: Be sure to read ALL the bible says on any given subject before drawing a conclusion. Then, carefully balance ALL, so no Scripture is broken (John 10:35).