

Wallpaper Hanging

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Over the New Years holiday, I did something I had never done before. I hung wallpaper. In our home, we have one room that we call “the War Room.” This room has all of my military junk, as well as a lot of military memorabilia that belonged to my Grandfather, or which I have collected over the years. It is the one room in the house that I am allowed to decorate any way I choose. The room had been decorated with a paper I had wanted to replace the paper for some time and we finally did it over the holidays.

We had stripped the old wallpaper, prepared the walls and purchased the new paper and border. The wallpaper was going up about thirty inches from the baseboards. The border would run parallel to the floor at the top of the wallpaper. We were all set.

In hanging wallpaper, the first thing you have to do is mark a plumb line on the wall. This is an actual line that you draw that ensures that your paper is hung completely vertical. This can be done in one of two ways. You can either take an actual plumb-line, which is a string with a weight at the bottom, called a plumb bob. You hold it up to the wall and snap a line of chalk onto the wall. You now have a plumb line. The other way, the one that I used, is to take a level and hold it up to the wall with the long side going up and down. When the level is perfectly vertical, the bubble will be between two lines. Then, you draw a line along the edge with a pencil.

After you have a line that is plumb, you line the wallpaper up over it and smooth out all of the bubbles. Your next sheet of wallpaper is lined up next to the first one, working the edges close together so that the seam between them is as unnoticeable as possible. After you have hung six or seven sheets, you can then apply the border above it. You line the border up level and let it run along the top of the paper to hide the uneven tops of the sheets.

When I was about halfway through papering the room, I checked the plumb of the paper and discovered that it was off. The result was that, without significant adjustment, the paper was not going to reach up to where the border was going to be. Apparently, the original sheet was close to plumb, but not exact. As I proceeded along, the small, unnoticeable error was suddenly magnified. As my wife and I discussed the problem, we were keenly aware of how similar this was to the human condition.

Adam was very close to God, but had the error of sin in his life. As generations followed, one after another, the error became magnified. In fact, it had become so great, mankind bore little resemblance to what God intended for us to be. The book of Amos in the Old Testament says that God would set a plumb-line among His people. As Christians, we believe this was Jesus Christ. He is the standard against which all of us are measured. Unfortunately, it shows us the degree of error in our lives. The good news is, God is capable of making the correction in us and lining us up in accordance with His standards.

Allow God to make these corrections in your life this year. It means that we have to constantly line ourselves up next to the standard, so that we can keep ourselves completely plumb with God. In doing so, you will keep the proper vertical relationship in your life.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.