

Making Choices

Every day we are faced with making choices. Many of these choices are simple and insignificant. However, there are moral choices we must make that can affect us forever. It is often hard to see the implications of some of these choices. How do we know which is the right choice to make? What if you are invited to a party where there may be some questionable or even wrong behavior taking place? Should you go? What if you are invited to go to the prom? Should you go? What is the right decision to make?

Lot chose to live near Sodom. This choice would have a negative affect upon his family. Moses chose to suffer with God's people rather than to enjoy the riches of Egypt (Heb. 11:24-26).

When Gideon wanted to be sure about the choice he was making, he asked God for a sign (Judges 6:36-40). God leads us today through the Bible (Ps 119:105).

- If we make our decision on what we want, then we have become the standard of authority. Our feelings can not be the measure of what is right or wrong (Mt 28:18).
- If we make our decision based upon the influence of others, then we are compelled to do what they want us to do.
- If we make our choices based upon pleasing God, then we have chosen wisely. The apostle John wrote, "*and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight*" (Jn. 3:22).

Let's consider five questions to ask ourselves before we make our decision. These questions will help us to think about the spiritual consequences of our choices.

Five Principles of Choice

- 1. What Does God Say About This?** The Christian is to walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). His mind is "set on things above: (Col. 3:1). He wants to do what is lawful to God (1 Cor. 6:12). If God's word forbids something, then the decision has been made. The choice is to stand with God on His word. Daniel had his mind made up about obeying God (Dan. 1:8).
- 2. What Good Will Come From This?** Paul said, "all things are lawful...but not all things are profitable" (1 Cor. 6:12). He said later on, "not all things edify" (1 Cor. 10:23). God is concerned about my improvement spiritually. What kind of Christian will I be after I do this?
- 3. Can You Walk Away From This?** Again, Paul said, "I will not be mastered by anything" (1 Cor. 6:12). The Bible teaches self control (Acts 24:25; 1 Cor. 9:25). Some activities can consume our lives. Our jobs can turn us into "work-a-holics." Our hobbies can possess us. Will this choice control you?
- 4. Will Others Think That You Are A Christian?** Paul did not want to leave the wrong impression with others (1 Cor. 8:13; 10:32-33). When you make your decision, will people be surprised to find out that you are a Christian? Are Christians supposed to do what you are thinking about doing? God calls us to be the "light" and "salt" of the world.
- 5. Will It Make God Proud of You?** Paul was interested in bringing "glory" to God (1 Cor. 10:31). A child that does well, pleases his parent. But a rebellious child, brings shame to his parents. The

father of the prodigal always loved his wayward son. He was not proud of his decision to live reckless. Will your choice make God proud of you?

Choices. You make them every day. May these 5 questions help you to make the right choices.

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