

Why we do what we do

6/2/91

Final message in Are there shades of gray? series, 1 Cor 10:23-11:1

Introduction

#1. The PRINCIPLES

1st. The _____ principle

Romans 14:19-20, Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.

•Profit people before my own personal pleasure.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 build up one another.

•Do you edify others with these tools?

- sharing the Word of God with others
- teaching or preaching
- giving your sacrifices of love
- and continued selfless service

2nd. The _____ principle

Philippians 2:3-4 Let each of you regard one another as more important than himself, do not look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Galatians 1:10 For if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond servant of of Christ.

- Direct or indirect?
- Unbending or compromise?
- inconvenient or convenient?

•The people principle is not being a people pleaser, so they like you, but being a person perfecter, so the Christians are loved,

3rd. The _____ principle

1 Timothy 6:17. God "who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy"

1 Timothy 4:4, it says, For everything God created is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving

4th. The _____ principle

- Protect the conscience of the weaker brother &
- Protect the testimony of Christ and His Church.

John 17:23 May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me.

John 13:34 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

#2. The PURPOSE

To glorify God is heavy for two reasons.

- 1st, it is the more important focus of life.
- 2nd, it is who God is.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it's no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and delivered Himself up for me.

•Evaluate yourself as we mention each one

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Confess our _____ | Joshua 7:19 |
| 2. Unwavering _____ | Romans 4:20 |
| 3. Produce _____ | John 15:8 |
| 4. Verbal _____ | Psalms 50:23 |
| 5. Contented _____ | Philippians 4 |
| 6. Confident _____ | John 14:13 |
| 7. Share the _____ | 2 Thessalonians 3:1 |
| 8. _____ living | Matthew 5:16 |
| 9. Getting to _____ God | 2 Corinthians 3:18 |
| 10. _____ Christ | Philippians 2:9-11 |

#3. The Pattern

- Do not allow your life to prevent an unbeliever from Christ, or prevent a Christian from maturing.
- You can't model a principle, you can only model a person.

CONCLUSION:

- 1st. Use God's principles for _____ in every area of gray.
- 2nd. Include the Lord in every _____ of your life.
- 3rd. Decide, God will have no _____.

Are there shades of Gray?

When God gives clear, detailed, absolute moral instructions in unqualified terms; these principles are absolute. However, in those areas where the Bible is silent or not clear, these issues are "gray".

The Christian then must use general principles from Scripture to guide them through the decision making process.

What are some grey issues?: clothing, style, length of hair, dancing, smoking, drinking, eating certain foods, music, television, movies, dating, sports, card playing, activities on Sunday, earrings, jewelry, mixed bathing, entertainment, and more.

Since the Scripture is totally sufficient (Psalm 19), then the Word of God should give us all the answers we need for each of these issues.

Here are those principles and questions that MAKE DECISION MAKING EASY.

The Ease of decision making:

Yes or No

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. Experience | I Corinthians 6:12 | | |
| | Will it be profitable for me spiritually? | Y | N |
| 2. Edify | I Corinthians 10:23, Ephesians 4:11-12 | | |
| | Will it build me up? | Y | N |
| 3. Excess | Hebrews 12:1-3 | | |
| | Will it slow me down in the race? | Y | N |
| 4. Enslavement | I Corinthians 6:12 | | |
| | Will it bring me to bondage? | Y | N |
| 5. Equivocation | I Peter 2:16/Galatians 5:13 | | |
| | Will it be simply a covering for my sin? | Y | N |
| 6. Encouragement | Romans 14:1-12 | | |
| | Will it violate my understanding of
the Lordship of Christ in my life? | Y | N |
| 7. Example | Romans 14:13ff/I Corinthians 11:1 | | |
| | Will it set a helpful example for others? | Y | N |
| 8. Evangelism | Matthew 5/Romans 14:18 | | |
| | Will it lead others to Christ? | Y | N |
| 9. Emulation | I John 2:6 | | |
| | Will it be like Christ? | Y | N |
| 10.Exaltation | I Corinthians 10:31 | | |
| | Will it glorify God? | Y | N |