

Decision Making and the Will of God

-How to avoid "Fleeing" God

1. The Traditional View
2. The Dangers of Subjectivity
3. Biblical Decision Making

Biblical Decision Making

Principles

1. **SCRIPTURE**
 - Has a bearing on all decision
 - Direction
 - Motives
 - Behavior
2. **WISDOM**
 - Seek it from the Scriptures
 - Proverbs 4:7
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Bounce it off a friend
 - Proverbs 20:18
 - Ask for it from God
 - James 1:5-8

Biblical Decision Making

Principles

1. **SCRIPTURE**
2. **WISDOM**
3. **PURPOSEFUL FREEDOM**
 - Matthew 22:37-40
 - Philipians 2:1-5
 - 1 Corinthians 6:12
4. **DESIRE**
 - Psalms 37:4
 - Philipians 2:12-13

Biblical Decision Making

Process

- **Direct Principles**
 - Statements within Scripture
 - (Employment in Hollywood may contradict Ephesians 5:3-14)
- **Indirect Principles**
 - Statements within Scripture
 - (Marriage not in 2 Corinthians 6:14-16)
- **Purposeful Freedom**

Biblical Decision Making

Questions to ask in the process

- Is there anything wrong with this activity? Is it lawful? (1 Peter 2:16)
- Is it self-serving at the expense of someone else's benefit? (Rom. 15:1-2)
- Is this something I can thank God for? (Rom. 14:6)

Biblical Decision Making

Questions to ask in the process

- Is this something that will glorify God? (1 Cor. 10:31)
- Is this worth imitating? (1 Cor. 11:1)
- Is this following the example of Christ? (1 Cor. 11:1)

Biblical Decision Making

Questions to ask in the process

- Will my choice affect others around me? (1 Cor. 10:32)
- Will it promote my spiritual health? (1 Cor. 10:23)
- Is it a practice that will over time tend to master me? (1 Cor. 6:12)

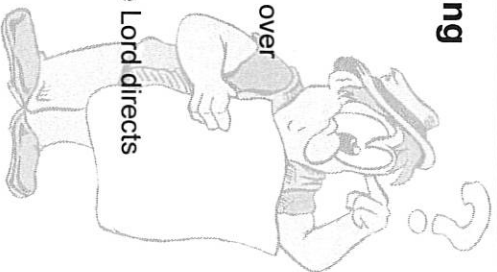
Biblical Decision Making

Questions to ask in the process

- Will it promote the spiritual well being of others if they engaged in this practice? (1 Cor. 8:13)
- Is this an occasion where my flesh is seeking to indulge itself? (Gal. 5:13)

Biblical Decision Making

- I still can't decide!
 - Holding principle (Romans 14:23)
 - Gather more data and start the process over
- Our Assurance from God
 - “The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9



Biblical Decision Making

- Jesus and the Old and New Testament Writers placed the importance upon the necessity of doing God's will

They seemed to take it for granted that we would know what we were to do

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. - Deut. 29:29

Biblical Decision Making

- Our battle seems to be
 - Our unwillingness to do the diligent study of His revealed will then applying it in a spirit of humility

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15, ESV)

Biblical Decision Making

“The will of God is not to be sought anywhere else than in His word.”

- John Calvin