

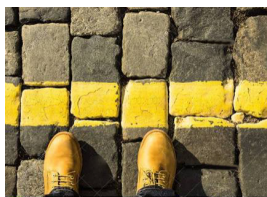
Christian Decision Making

Part 4 of Building a Life With Christian Ethics

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Intro: There are a lot of social/cultural issues around us that impact our behaviour – What clothes should I wear? What movies should I watch? How do I behave with a boyfriend or girlfriend? Can I get a tattoo? What about alcohol, or smoking, or marijuana if it becomes legal? These are the things that you need to answer and have a good, biblical basis for your answer. All must be filtered through the Word of God.

1. Our Primary Goal



Our primary goal should not be just to see what we can “get away with” as Christians, or how close to *the line* we can get without actually going too far. Instead, let’s have another goal:

Read Col. 1:9-10

- A. Walk “worthy” (*see also Eph. 4:1; Phil. 1:27*)

This does not mean we have to perform to see if we are worthy, but rather, God has made us worthy through Christ, now we should live like it!

- B. Be fully pleasing
- C. Being fruitful in every good work
- D. Increasing in the knowledge of God (Col. 1:10)

In short, my primary goal is to be closer to God. Instead of keeping my eyes on the lines I want drawn, I must keep my eyes on my Lord.

2. Our Primary Tool

Read Heb. 5:14

The deeper, spiritual truths of the Word of God can only be given to those who are of “full age” and who are spiritually born again (*see also 1 Cor. 2:14*)



Even though we could teach a dog to “pray,” we understand he is really not able to and is merely going through the motions. He is a dog naturally! Likewise, one who is naturally born (not born again) cannot properly use and appreciate the Word of God.

So what is this *solid food*? (*See Heb. 5:12*) - *the oracles of God (Word of God)*.

God’s Word May Be:

- A. Clear (God’s view of sex, marriage and divorce, homosexuality)

- B. Principles (Euthanasia - God's Word doesn't mention this specifically, but we find many principles on who gives life and the sanctity of it)
- C. Quiet (issues that may be *neutral*)

Two things to avoid when formulating our convictions:

- A. Legalism (Gal. 3:3)



This is me and Jen on our wedding day! With Christmas coming up, should I have an attitude of, "Great, now I have to buy her another present?" No, but I enjoy and look with anticipation at her joy. Should I be upset I can no longer date others? Of course not! Our marriage is not just a legal document, but an on-going relationship!

- B. License (*Rom. 6:1-2*)

3. Our Primary Motive (see *1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23*)

1. Does it bring me under its power?
2. Does it edify?

This comes down to *love*. Is the decision I am looking at going to bring me under its power and become an idol (love God with all your heart, soul, mind)? Would it help edify others (love your neighbour)?

Questions:

1. When looking at decision-making and the Christian, what benefit is it to see our primary goal first to please the Lord with our lives? How might that affect the decisions we make?
2. Why do you think legalism is easy for some believers to fall into? Why is it easy for some to lean toward license? What has been your tendency before?
3. When it comes to decision making, how can your decisions be motivated by love? What is it like when they are not?

Prayer: *"Father, thank You for Your amazing grace. Thank you for giving Your Word to us which is sufficient for our lives, our faith, and our daily life. I commit my life to You and the decisions I make. May my primary goal always be to please and serve You with my life. May my primary tool be Your Word to prepare me for when decisions come my way. And may my motivation be love- for You, my God, and for others. Thank You in Jesus' name, amen!"*