

Making Decisions
Selected Scriptures

1. Principle of Excess - Hebrews 12:1

Hebrews 12:1 - *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

1Corinthians 9:24 - *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but [only] one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.*

Is the activity or habit necessary, or is it merely an extra that is not really important? Is it perhaps only an encumbrance that we should willingly give up?

2. Principle of Usefulness - 1Corinthians 6:12a

1Corinthians 6:12 - *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable.*

Is what I want to do helpful and useful, or only desirable?

3. Principle of Enslavement - 1Corinthians 6:12b

1Corinthians 6:12 - *All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.*

2Peter 2:19 - *promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.*

Will this thing I want to do master me or enslave me in some way?

4. Principle of Imitation 1John 2:6

1John 2:6 - *the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked*

If we are doing what Christ would do, our action is not only permissible but good and right.

5. Principle of Example 1Timothy 4:12b

1Timothy 4:12 *...but [rather] in speech, conduct, love, faith [and] purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.*

Romans 14:13 - *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this —not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.*

Romans 14:20 - *Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. 21It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or [to do anything] by which your brother stumbles.*

1Corinthians 10:24 - *Let no one seek his own [good], but that of his neighbor.*

Are we setting the right example for others, especially for weaker brothers and sisters? If we emulate Christ, others will be able to emulate us, to follow our example?

6. Principle of Evangelism - Colossians 4:5

Colossians 4:5 - *Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6Let your speech always be with grace, [as though] seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*

1Corinthians 9:21 - *to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. 22To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.*

1Corinthians 9:23 - *I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.*

Is my testimony going to be helped or hindered? Will unbelievers be drawn to Christ or turned away from Him by what I am doing? Will it help me conduct myself “with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity?”

7. Principle of Edification - 1Corinthians 10:23

1Corinthians 10:23 - *All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.*

Will I be built up and matured in Christ; will I become spiritually stronger?

8. Principle of Exaltation - 1Corinthians 10:31

1Corinthians 10:31 - *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

Will the Lord be lifted up and glorified in what I do? God’s glory and exaltation should be the supreme purpose behind everything we do.

9. Principle of Faith - Romans 14:23

Romans 14:23 - *But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because [his eating is] not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.*

Can I do this with faith: believing that God would approve?