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# CHOOSE WISELY PART I

DISCERNING LIFE'S CRAZY ATTEMPTS TO SIDE TRACK US

*"Everything in your life is a reflection of a choice you have made. If you want a different result, make a different choice."*



# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



## **STEP 1: BELIEVE GOD'S WORD**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

*Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)*

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



Wisdom starts with a proper relationship and knowing of God.

What has He said about Himself, about you, the circumstance, and our relationships, and His expectations on us.

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



You have to ask if what you're considering is sin?  
Does God's Word forbid you to do the thing you're thinking about doing?

**If the answer is yes it is sin, then this process is over.**

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



If it's *not* sin, (A GREY AREA) then there are three truths that are narratives of the scriptures that can help you think through how you believe in God's Word in particular.

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



## Grey Areas

1. **God's Gospel:** How will it affect the gospel being preached and going forward.
2. **God's Sovereignty:** Learn from a lesson discipline or wisdom
3. **God's Mission:** Making disciples

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



## STEP 2: LISTEN TO GODLY COUNSEL

One of the greatest gifts God has given His people is His people.

*Where there is no guidance, people fall, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*

*Proverbs 11:14 (ESV)*

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



When people speak into your life and decisions, there is safety.

*Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.*

*Proverbs 18:1-2 (ESV)*



# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



## 3 GROUPS TO CONSIDER

1. Family
2. People in the church
3. Pastors and Elders

*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. Proverbs 12:15 (ESV)*

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



## **STEP 3: DO WHAT YOU WANT**

If the answer is yes, then do it. If the answer is no, then don't do it.

It really can be that simple to follow Jesus in the gray areas of life.

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



You have the freedom in Christ to do what you want. **Once** you've brought your decision under the authority of His word and people, do what you want to do.

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



## **STEP 4: ASK FOR FAITH**

You've made your decision. You're going in a particular direction. Now you need faith to trust God, because you have no idea what's going to happen. You can be the wisest person on the planet; you still don't know the future.

# HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?



## STEP 4: ASK FOR FAITH

*The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. Proverbs 16:1 (ESV)*

*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)*

# ISSUES NEEDING DECISIONS



## I. Addictions

- a) Alcohol, Drugs, Vaping, Marijuana
- b) Computers, Video Games, Phones
- c) Social Media
- d) Physical Fitness, Eating, Body
- e) Entertainment (movies, music)

# ISSUES NEEDING DECISIONS



1. Addictions
2. Self Worth
  - a) Body Image
  - b) Accepting Who and How God Created Us
  - c) Difference What We Can and Cannot Change

# ISSUES NEEDING DECISIONS



1. Addictions
2. Self Worth
3. Dating and Sex
  - a) What does God want from me?
  - b) How do I treat myself and the opposite gender?
  - c) Why do I ask how far can I go?
  - d) When should I date?



# ISSUES NEEDING DECISIONS



1. Addictions
2. Self Worth
3. Dating and Sex
4. Friends
  - a) Who and how... We looked at this already with Guardrails Series.

# ISSUES NEEDING DECISIONS



1. Addictions
2. Self Worth
3. Dating and Sex
4. Friends
5. School
  - a) How stressed should I be?
  - b) How do I know what to take and what to do?
  - c) How does what I learn affect my faith?

# ISSUES NEEDING DECISIONS



1. Addictions
2. Self Worth
3. Dating and Sex
4. Friends
5. School
6. Parents
  - a) What is their purpose if they don't know Jesus?
  - b) How do I have to honour them?

## NEXT WEEK



We will tackle each one of these issues and determine what the bible says and how we can make good decisions in each of these areas of our lives.

THEREFORE EVERYONE  
WHO **HEARS** THESE  
WORDS OF MINE AND  
PUTS THEM INTO  
**PRACTICE** IS LIKE  
A **WISE** MAN WHO  
BUILT HIS HOUSE  
ON THE **ROCK.**

MATTHEW 7:24 NIV