

Examples Of Making Godly Decisions

1 Timothy 4:12

INTRODUCTION

- A. Chart - A Simple Model For Godly Decision-Making
- B. Our text.
1. In word – Our Christianity should be reflected in our language. EP 4:29. Because one is a Christian, they are required to talk differently.
Example: A little boy on a farm illustrates how some apply this trait only when they are around “religious” people. One day the preacher came to visit, and he was sitting in the living room visiting with the boy’s mother. The preacher was seated in the corner chair; so the boy did not see him as he came running into the room with a rat by the tail. The boy exclaimed, “Mama, I found this rat and I hit him with a board, and then I threw him against the barn, and then I kicked him, and then I stomped him...” At that moment, the boy caught a glimpse of the preacher; so he turned toward him and continued, “And then, Preacher, the Lord called him home.”
CO 4:5-6. Our “yes” should be “yes” and our “no” should mean “no,” and “whatsoever is more than these is of the evil one.” MT 5:37. Slangs and phrases with God’s name or any reference to God is using God’s name in vain. Cf. PS 19:14; EP 4:29; 5:3-4.
 2. In conversation – manner of life/behavior. 1 PE 1:14-16 – requires putting away.
 3. In charity (Love) – our genuine attitude of compassion, empathy, tolerance, and Christlikeness whereby we wish the best before God for all people. RO 13:9-10; 1 CO 13:1-7. We are to love even as Jesus loved us – JN 13:34, 35.
 4. In spirit – the human spirit – GA 5:22-23.
 5. In faith – implies sturdiness, confidence, and steadfastness of our convictions, with complete trust in God through Christ from Scripture. JA 2:23.
 6. In purity – involves one’s own personal sanctity or integrity of heart produced by our control of self, as well as the assumed chastity in matters of sex – Cf. 1 TI 5:2b.
“I am now reading the Bible and behaving it.”
- C. How can this be done? 1 Timothy 4:13.
1. Give attendance to reading – What? The Bible!
 2. Give attendance to exhortation – the reading was to be followed by an exhortation based upon the Bible.
 3. Give attendance to doctrine – teaching which involves interpreting and applying the great truths of the one definitive posit of faith as to Christian ethics and living. We are to immerse ourselves in Divine Truth. TV robs one of God’s Word! Many know more about “characters” of American Idol and some reality shows than they do of characters of the Bible.
- D. Chart – An Example Of A Good Decision.

DISCUSSION

- I. AN EXAMPLE OF A GOOD DECISION.
- A. Joseph.
1. GE 39:1-23.
 2. Remember: We decide not to sin, because we know it is wrong.
Don’t linger with sin. Get away! 1 JN 3:4.
 3. Question: What logic did Joseph use and how does it link to the principles and guidelines?
- B. Moses.
1. HE 11:23-27.

2. Remember: We must visualize the reward and the invisible God. WE must know and see where we are going. HE 11:13-16.
 3. Question: What influenced the decision made by Moses?
- C. Abraham.
1. GE 11:27-32; 12:1-4. HE 11:8-10.
 2. Remember: We need faith, direction, and desire to reach our heavenly home. HE 11:13.
 3. Question: What influenced the decision made by Abraham?
- II. AN EXAMPLE OF BAD DECISION.
- A. King Saul.
1. 1 SA 13:1-5. 1 SA 15:1-35.
 2. Remember: We can think we are making good decisions and we can make bad decision after bad. PR 14:12
 3. Question: What principles and guidelines did King Saul violate?
- B. Solomon.
1. 1 KI 11:1-13.
 2. Remember: Even the wise can be influenced to decide to do wrong and suffer the consequences.
 3. Question: What principles and guidelines did Solomon violate?
- C. Eli.
1. 1 SA 2:22-36; 3:10-18; 4:12-18.
 2. Remember: We make many decisions, such of discipline, everyday.
 3. Question: What principles and guidelines did Eli violate?
- III. WHAT MAKES A GOOD OR BAD DECISION?
- A, Good decisions.
1. Right in the sight of God.
 2. Following the Biblical authority.
 3. Avoiding the consequences of godly knowledge.
- B. Bad decisions.
1. Right in the sight of people.
 2. Assuming your own authority of what is right.
 3. Having worldly knowledge won't ensure best decisions.
- C. Remember: We must die in faith like Abraham, Noah, Enoch, Abel, Sarah, etc., and keep our focus on the reward to influence our decisions every day.
- D. "By faith...." HE 11.
- E. Question: What can you and I learn from the good and bad examples provided?
- CONCLUSION
- A. LK 6:46; Cf. MT 7:21.
- B. HE 5:8-9.