



Lesson 3: Discerning the Right Direction

Do you have trouble making decision? For most of us it is difficult to know if we're using good judgement as we make decisions about life. It becomes even harder with important, life changing decisions. When making decisions everyone must use one common denominator – discernment. The trouble is that deciding whether or not the choice you made was good or bad depends on whom you ask. So, how do you know who to list to? Who gets to decide if you're using good discernment?

In our generation, “_____ sets the pace.” Because of this trend toward _____ thinking we live in a day full of questions – questions that deserve to be _____. These questions are not being asked by the world alone. Many Christians are asking, “Why can't I do it?” Sadly questions that begin with “why” have been shot down for years. Some wrong answers to this question include:

1. Because my _____ says so ...
2. Because my _____ says so ...
3. It doesn't _____ right
4. I don't know
5. _____

As Christians we need to set the pace in our generation with principles from God's Word. But, before we look at a true Christian ethic, let's look at some of the alternatives that are commonly held.

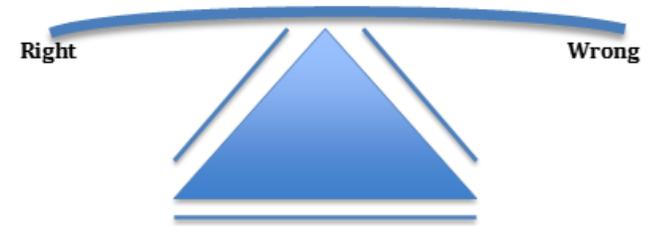
Man's Ethical Confusion

- _____ = the system that one uses to determine right from wrong
- A. Ancient Men
 - Plato, Aristotle, and Epicure sought after the _____ good.
 - B. Modern Men
 - Dewey, Komte, Darwin, and others taught there is no _____ good.

The underlying cause of all this confusion is _____ (Romans 7:20)

God's Ethical Commandments

God's standards for Christians must be balanced by three principles:



The Key is BALANCE:

- Too much _____ brings _____.
- Too much _____ brings _____.
- Too much _____ brings _____.

Step #1: Become _____ You _____

Biblical Data: 1 Cor. 5:7, 2 Cor. 5:17, Col. 3:10, Gal. 3:10

As new creatures we are commanded to both do and forsake certain things.

- 1) Put off the _____ (Eph. 4:22)
- 2) Put on the _____ (Eph. 4:22-23, Col. 3:12-14)

Step #2: Obey God's _____

Biblical Data: 1 John 2:2; John 14:15

Is there a specific _____ that would prohibit me doing this? Simple _____ is the proper response to God's commands.

Step #3: Apply Biblical _____ (see additional handout)

Biblical Data: Are there general principles in Scripture that would affect my decision?

When there is not a clear command that is to be obeyed God has given us principles in His Word that we should apply.

Step #4: Always Pursue a Life of _____ God

Biblical Data: John 4:23-24, 2 Cor. 5:9, Rom. 12:1-2

The aim of all human life is that Christ would be made to look as valuable as He truly is. There is a way to do your job that expresses the true value of God.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The Bible does not always say “Thou Shalt” or “Thou Shalt Not,” but it does give us road signs along the way that help us discern the right direction to go. Never reduce Christianity to a matter of demands and resolutions and willpower. Let it be a matter of what you love, what you delight in, and what tastes good to you. The righteous and the wicked are separated by what they _____ in.