

# How Christians Make Decisions

**1. The first step of Christian decision making is a right relationship with God through faith in Jesus (MOTIVE).**

**Galatians 5:6:** The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

**John 15:5:** I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

**Hebrews 11:6:** And without faith it is impossible to please God.

**2. When your heart is right with God, you look to his law to direct your love and thanks. (LAW).**

**Romans 14:13:** Everything that does not come from faith (the conviction that your conscience is in line with the Bible) is sin.

**John 14:15,21:** If you love me, you will obey what I command... Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.

**Psalms 119:32:** I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.

**Ephesians 2:10:** We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.

**3. What do we mean, "Love has a definition"?**

**Mark 12:29-34; Romans 13:8-10**

What's wrong with the maxim, Let your conscience be your guide? How can we know whether or not our conscience conforms to God's will?

How can you know what is adiaphora unless you know what doctrine is? How can you know what God leaves to your discretion unless you know what he demands for himself?

What essential activity in the Christian's daily life do all of the above questions point to?

**4. When God's law offers no specific rule for our action, we decide on the basis of what best glorifies God and serves our neighbor (GOAL).**

**5. Above all we seek to glorify God. (The glory of God is the *summum bonum*, or ultimate of Christian ethics).**

**Matthew 5:16:** In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

**Matthew 22:37-38:** Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment.

**Colossians 3:17:** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**1 Thessalonians 5:21,22:** Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

**1 Corinthians 10:23,24:** "Everything is permissible" -- but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible" -- but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

What does this mean to "slippery slope" ethics, living on the edge?

## **6. We also glorify God when we seek unselfishly to serve our neighbor.**

**Philippians 2:3-5:** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...

**Galatians 5:13,14:** You my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

**Galatians 6:2:** Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

**Romans 13:10:** Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

How does the situation or the desired outcome fit into Christian decision making? Give some examples of the end justifying the means in Christian decision making? What about at the beginning of life? End of life?

What causes confusion among Christians when they watch each other's decision making process? Why may this often be judgmental?

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