

BIBLICAL TOOLS FOR KNOWING GOD'S WILL

Life is full of choices. Scientists estimate that we make between 5,000-20,000 decision per day!

But what is the will of God in my situation in which I find myself?

In 1 Corinthians, Paul addressed a misconception that some had regarding the will of God in their lives; “all things are lawful” or “everything is permissible” – love God and do what you like!

Paul wanted to show them how to relate to the “freedom” as the children of God with their responsibilities to live lives fully pleasing to Him and be obedient to His will. The Christian Walk.

Just as a man/woman, dominated and controlled by substance abuse will evidence this in their walk, so the man/woman who is under control of the Spirit will demonstrate it by the way he/she walks in the will of God (Ephesians 5:18).

The principles that Paul provided, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are what we will examine and apply to help us “know God's will”.

1. IS IT LAWFUL?

- Many of the Corinthians emphasized the biblical principle that Christ had set them free from the guilt and bondage of sin
- Paul instructed them that their freedom was *for* something - holiness
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- So, what's the point? – No action which is contrary to the Word of God can ever be legitimate for the Christian.
- So, the simple question – Is it lawful?

2. IS IT HELPFUL TO ME?

- Sounds egotistical, doesn't it?
- The first question was about the nature of the action, the second is focused on its consequences

- There may be nothing wrong with it, but there may be nothing right with it
- Here's the question we should ask; "Will it bring benefits, so that my relationship to the Lord Jesus is strengthened?" "Will it draw me nearer to Him?"
- Example – I am thinking about spending a significant amount of money on something. God's will or not?
- Will it benefit, or perhaps will it potentially consume my time, energy, etc., in such a way that I will be "spiritually the poorer?"
- Will it complicate rather than simplify my life?
- It may not be the all-determining factor in each decision, but it is an important factor in many cases.
- Remember that we are talking about decisions that meet question #1

3. IS IT ENSLAVING?

- 1 Corinthians 6:12 - "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated (enslaved) by anything."
- Is it possible to make choices which, eventually, will tend to squeeze out our spiritual energies; to commit ourselves to things which, however legitimate in general terms, will eventually become the dominating and driving force in our lives?
- Whatever it is, when we cannot be content without it, when we simply must have it, it is no longer a liberty, it is our chains!
- Will this enslave me?

4. IS IT CONSISTENT WITH CHRIST'S LORDSHIP?

- Paul continually reminded and asked the Corinthians if they understood their relationship to "the Lord"?
- They needed to remember that they were not their own; they had been bought at the price of their Lord's blood
- 1 Cor. 6:19-20 – "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. "

- Whenever we engage in a course of action, we do so in union with Jesus Christ.
- Can I take Christ “there” and look Him in the face without shame?
- Is this action in line with my confession that “Jesus Christ is Lord?”

5. IS IT HELPFUL TO OTHERS?

- 1 Cor. 10:33 - I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”
- Jesus lived by this principle (John 17:19) “For their sake, I consecrate myself”
- “For Christ did not please himself” – Romans 15:3
- The will of God is shaped in the image of His Son’s cross
- The will of God means death to our own will, and resurrection only when we have died to all our own plans.

6. IS IT CONSISTENT WITH BIBLICAL EXAMPLES?

- Look continually to Christ as our example
- 1 Cor. 10:31- “Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”.