

Right or Wrong: How to Choose

As faithful Christians, we generally know when we have done something that is wrong in God's eyes. Such Christians will experience true sorrow and make things right through repentance. The question here is, "What decision-making process did we use in process of choosing such behavior?" If we are to grow and mature in our faith, we must learn to make the proper choices before becoming involved in improper behavior.

Life would be easier if we had a set of rules today that covered all the advances, technological and societal, with which we are faced today. God's word does provide all answers, but not necessarily in the detail that would make our lives easier. It does so through principles put in place almost 2000 years ago.

Principles Christians must use are either stated explicitly or inferred in the following questions. Does the Bible declare that such actions/attitudes are wrong? How would such things affect my body or mind? Is it something that will bring me under its control? Can I be a good steward and still practice such things? Will God be glorified by such actions? How will others be affected by such things if I practice them? Will it make me a better Christian?

May we be those attempt to answer these and other questions before we participate in an act or manifest an attitude in our actions. Such consideration will help us to avoid the regret that may come from such things.

Outline:

1. Does the Bible declare an action to be right or wrong? (2 Pet. 1:3; Isa. 7:15)
2. How will such an action affect my own body? (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
3. Will such an action bring me under its control? (1 Cor. 6:12)
4. Is such an action an example of good stewardship? (1 Cor. 4:2)
5. Will it glorify God? (1 Cor. 10:31)
6. How will such an action affect others? (Heb. 10:24; 1 Cor. 10:33; 1 Cor. 8:9)

P.M. – Hosea

Hosea

1. Overview of Hosea

A. Preparation (Chap. 1-3)

1. Commanded to take a “wife of harlotry”
2. Their “family situation” attests to the heart of the problem.

B. Hosea’s message (Chap. 4-14)

1. National guilt exposed (4:1-3)
2. Removed the landmarks (5:10-12)
3. Called to repent (6:1-3)
4. God did not desire to punish them, but...(7:1-8)
5. Law of sowing and reaping (8:4-9)
6. Spiritual adultery and captivity (9:1-3)
7. Day of reckoning (10:13-15)
8. Again, not God’s desire (11:8)
9. Every of teaching used, but to no avail (12:9-10)
10. Assyria: God’s tool for judgment (13:15-16)
11. Restoration promised (14:1-7)

2. Lessons from Hosea:

- A. God continues to love His people, even when they fall (Mt. 23:37; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- B. The reason for destruction: ignorance (Mt. 15:9)
- C. The tendency to forget that we are dealing with God
- D. The reminder of personal responsibility (2 Cor. 5:10)