

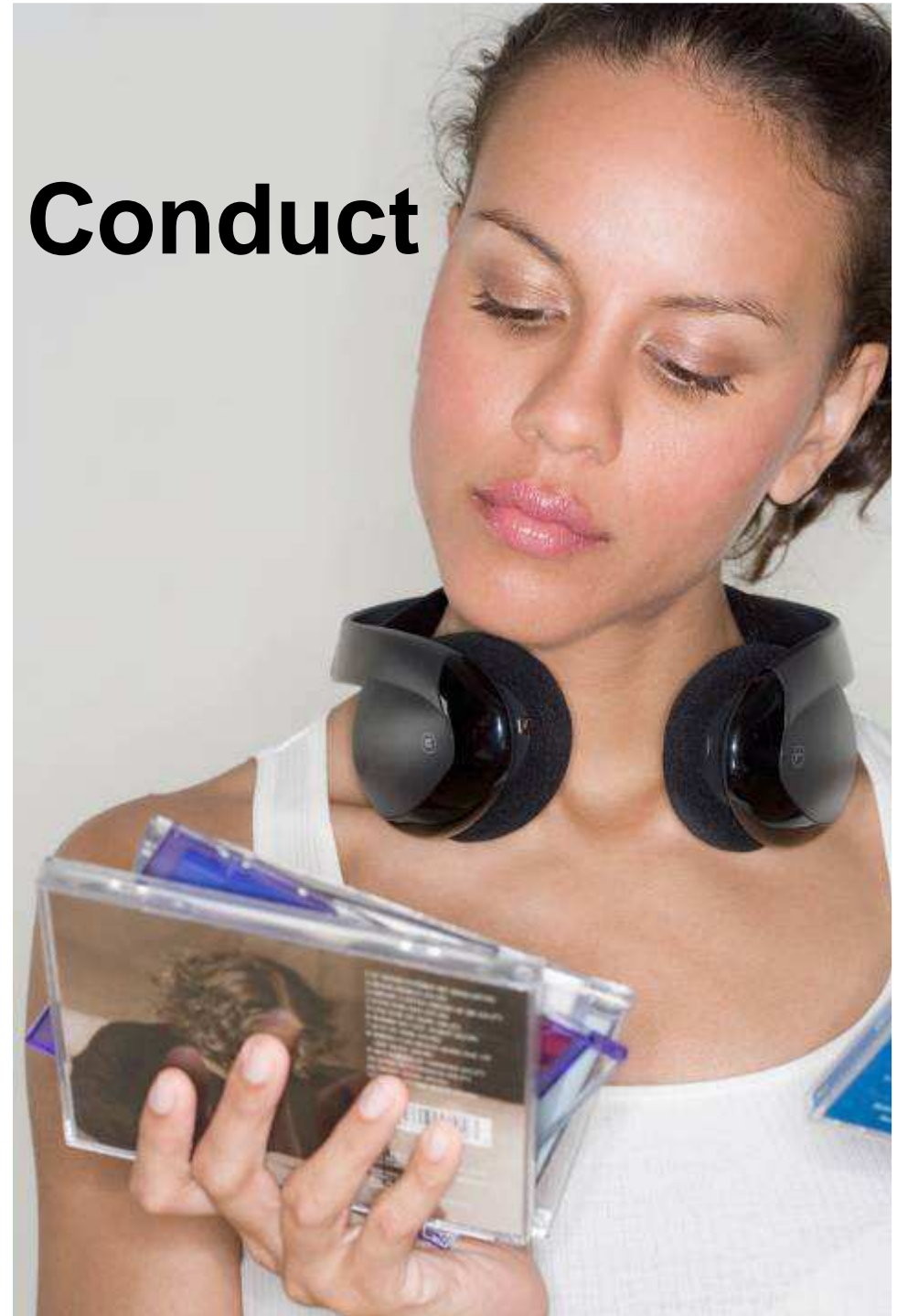
Christian Conduct

Six biblical principles for making good decisions.

By Shad Sluiter

Available for download at

www.GospelHall.org



What is a “**difficult**” decision?

- Some decisions are **easy** to make because they are either clearly forbidden by scripture or positively commanded by God. For example “**Should I steal this car?**” or “**Should I respect my parents?**”
- Others are more **difficult** because they may be less clear such as “**Should I join the team?**” or “**Is this a good job for me?**” or “**Should I rent this movie?**”

What do you use to make decisions?

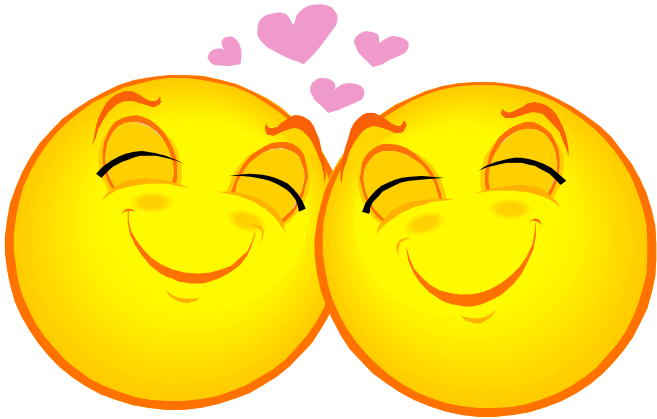


Your friends' advice



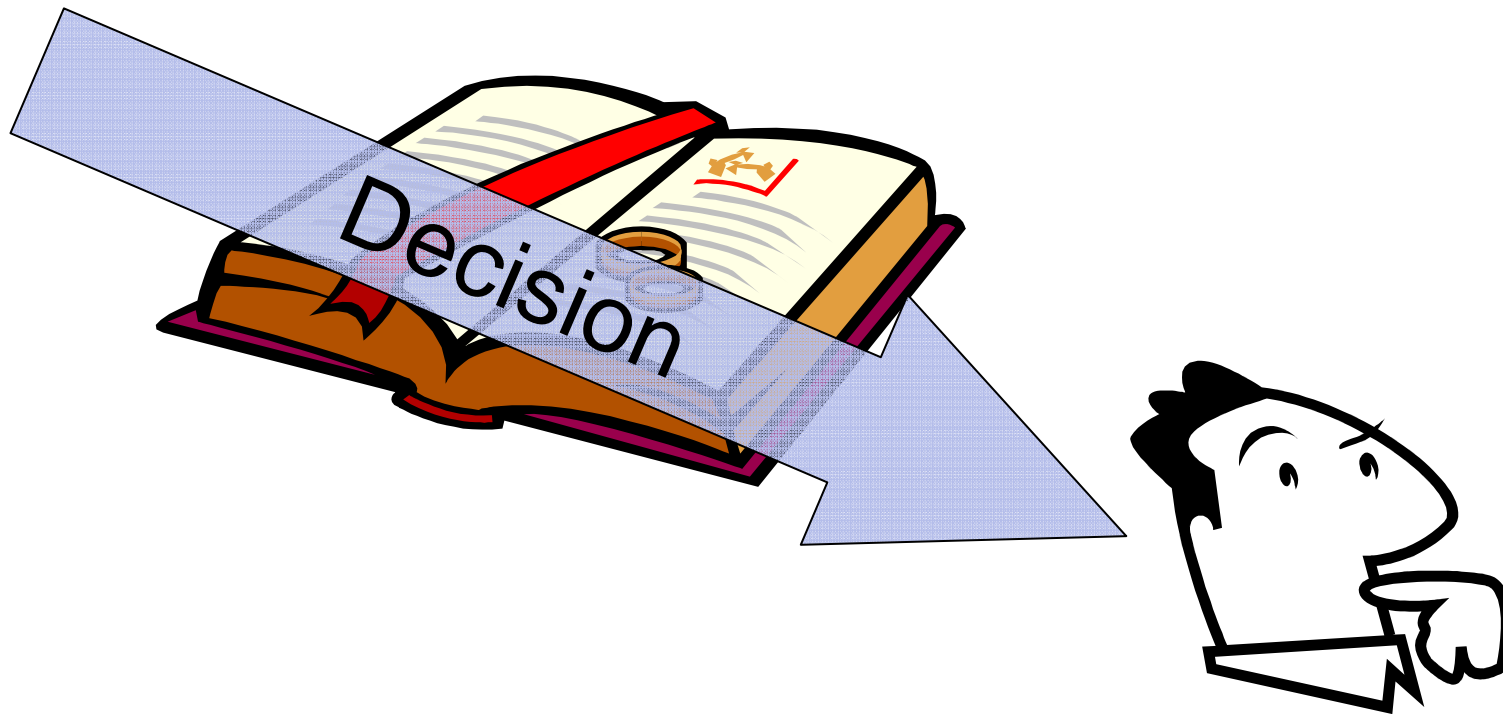
A coin flip?

There is a better way!!!



Your emotions

This lesson will help you pass decisions through the filter of the scriptures before coming to a conclusion...



Read the manual to become wise



Look
carefully
then how
you walk, not
as unwise
but as wise,
Ephesians 5:15

#1 - Is there potential danger? 1 Thesalonians 5:22

Abstain from
every form of
evil.

*When God says "don't" he means
"don't do this so you won't get hurt."*



#2 - Will it glorify God?

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether
you eat or
drink, or
whatever you
do, do all to the
glory of God.

Try to consider God's honor even in the most common actions of your life such as your choice of food.

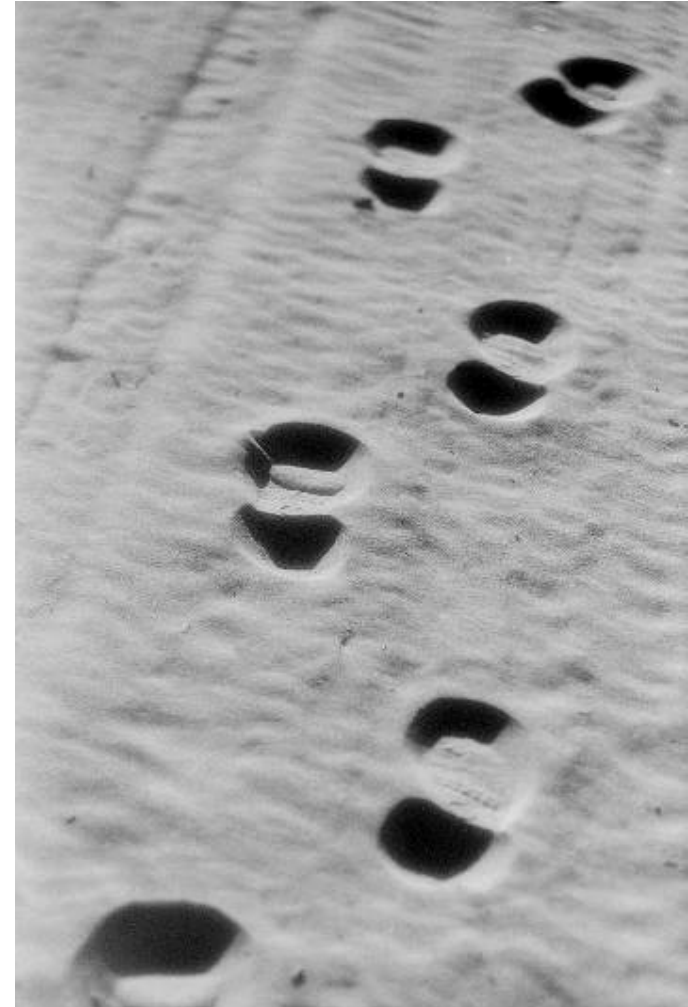


#3 - Does it fit with the example of Jesus?

1 Peter 2:21

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

A Christian should read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to know Christ's actions, attitudes and habits.



#4 - Will it grieve the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

When your reading or praying habits suffer, you should know that you are on the wrong track.



#5 - Will it help my testimony with my friends?

1 Timothy 3:7

he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

*An action affects a testimony by how **others** perceive you, not by how you perceive yourself.*



#6 - Will it stumble a fellow believer? Romans 14:13

decide never to
put a stumbling
block or
hindrance in the
way of a brother.

*Your actions will affect other believers,
especially those who follow your
example.*



Six questions to ask yourself when faced with a difficult decision...

- **Is there potential danger?** - 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- **Will it glorify God?** - 1 Corinthians 10:31
- **Does it fit with the example of Jesus?** - 1 Peter 2:21
- **Will it grieve the Holy Spirit?** - Ephesians 4:30
- **Will it help my testimony with my friends?** - 1 Timothy 3:7
- **Will it stumble a fellow believer?** - Romans 14:13

Decision Matrix

Name _____

(Print this page)

Decision:	Yes	Neutral	No
Will this decision preserve me from spiritual or moral dangers?			
Does it glorify God?			
Does it conform to the example of Jesus?			
Will it preserve me from grieving the Holy Spirit?			
Will it help build my testimony?			
Will it strengthen the faith of my brothers in Christ?			
<p style="text-align: center;">Totals →</p> <p>Count the number of X's in each column.</p>			

Directions:

- Write your decision as a statement. For example "I will work as a camp counselor this summer"
- Answer all six questions by placing an "x" in one of the three columns. Explain how you reached your conclusion.
- Add the total number of Xs in each column.

Evaluate:

A "No" answer to any one of these questions cautions you **NOT to follow through** with your decision.

A lot of "neutral" answers should tell you that the activity is a **waste of time** and probably wont help you spiritually.

If you answered "Yes" to most of the questions, **you are on the right track.** Reviewing your conclusion with a respected believer will help you see blind spots you might have missed.

Decision Matrix

Decision: Be a camp counselor this summer.	Yes	Neutral	No
Will this decision preserve me from spiritual or moral dangers?		x (No morally objectionable activities)	
Does it glorify God?	X (I will be serving others)		
Does it conform to the example of Jesus?	X (servant)		
Will it preserve me from grieving the Holy Spirit?		X (I don't see it impacting my spiritual life more than any other job.)	
Will it help build my testimony?	X (I will get to know a lot of families in a positive context)		
Will it strengthen the faith of my brothers in Christ?	X (I will get to work along side of a Christian friend)		
Totals → Count the number of X's in each column.	4	2	

Evaluate:

A "No" answer to any one of these questions cautions you **NOT to participate** in the activity.

A lot of "neutral" answers should tell you that the activity is a **waste of time** and probably won't help you spiritually.

If you answered "Yes" to most of the questions, **you are on the right track**. Reviewing your conclusion with a respected believer will help you see blind spots you might not see.

Worship