

AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS THROUGH

# **STANDING ALONE**

- Victory in a Christian's life is threatened when he is tempted to compromise his convictions.
- A Christian can overcome these pressures by a personal identification with Jesus Christ and a willingness to stand alone on the side of that which is right.

# **THE IMPORTANCE OF STANDING ALONE**

- Scripture encourages the father to teach his son to take a stand for that which is right. This is emphasized by Solomon's instruction, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Proverbs 1:10

Satan brings many pressures, both internal and external to bear on a person's life to weaken his standards and commitment to Jesus Christ.

## THE FALLACY OF WITHDRAWING FROM SOCIETY

Many parents feel that the way to instill convictions in their child is to shield him from exposure to those who do not have a Christian commitment. When the child gets into Junior High and High School, however, he is unable to cope with the language and behavior he observes in others. Because he does not know how to respond, he may withdraw, feel inferior and/or communicate a condemning attitude toward those who disagree with him.

Jesus Christ condemned this attitude when He told His disciples:

- "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? . . . And if ye salute (greet) your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans (tax collectors) so? Be ye therefore perfect (mature), even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Matthew 5:44-48

See also John 17:15.

### DEVELOPING A MATURE INDEPENDENCE

**THE CHRISTIAN DYNAMIC:** Becoming involved in the lives of others in order to introduce them to Jesus Christ and help each one to develop spiritual maturity.

Colossians 1:28,29 (Phillips)

- THE KEY to standing alone is being willing to identify verbally with Jesus Christ any time I am tempted to compromise my total commitment to Him or to violate His principles for my life.

When a person stands alone he is communicating to others that he has something worth standing for; he has found a superior way of life.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF VERBAL IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST.

Jesus emphasized this when He said:

- "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's and of the holy angels."

Luke 9:26

(Also, see Matthew 10:33; Romans 1:16; 10:11.)

Many Christians think they can be a witness for Jesus Christ by "just living the life." This is possible only after a person has identified himself verbally with the Lord. Unless he shares his testimony with those who knew him before his commitment, they will suspect his new behavior as a gimmick to get something or to cover up old offenses. Therefore, he must share his testimony when he has an appropriate opportunity, or be ready to share it when put on the spot to compromise or violate God's principles. After that, he can remain silent and live the life before them.

- WHEN DO THE PARENTS BEGIN?

One important goal for parents while their children are young is to teach them how to relate and respond to other children in the neighborhood. Welcome the neighborhood children and encourage them to play in your yard. Then you as a parent will be available to help your child understand why other children do what they do and to control behavior which is unacceptable to your family goals and standards.

For example: If another child is using profane language, you can in a loving way say, "Johnny, let's not talk that way to another person."

or

If your child is demanding his rights and refusing to share his toys or take turns on a vehicle, you have an opportunity to teach your child a sense of fairness and to communicate love, impartiality and fairness to the neighbor child.

- DISCERNING REAL NEEDS IN OTHERS

This also enables the parent to discern some of the real needs of the neighbor children and seek ways of meeting these needs.

A three-year-old neighbor boy was constantly hitting the other children. I found myself inwardly reacting to him each time one of my children came in with a welt on the arm. Telling him not to hit seemed to have no effect on him. I became sensitive to the fact that he felt rejected by others, including his parents and me.

One day as I was coming out of the house, I saw him with a dirty face and a runny nose, alone in the backyard. I called him by name, knelt down and wiped his nose. Then I picked him up and put him on my lap. I hugged him and told him how much I liked him. I said I wanted to be his friend.

From that time on, whenever I was around he would come over to me. If I saw him starting to hit others and I spoke to him, he would immediately respond to my words.

● TURNING PROBLEMS INTO PROJECTS FOR COMMUNICATING LOVE:

Numerous situations can be turned into practical projects with your children to return good for evil. The child and family can learn to pray for the person whom they feel is "despitefully using" them, and to compliment a person who is cursing them.

When a child is "protected" and does not learn how to respond to evil and the pressure of his peers, he will be unprepared for Junior High. This new exposure to all types of foul language and evil may overwhelm him, causing inferiority. Instead of reaching out in his spirit to communicate the love of Christ, he will feel a "wall" towards others and express himself in a condemning or "preaching" attitude.

a condemning or "preaching" attitude.

# WHEN STANDING ALONE

● A PERSON SHOULD:

1. VISUALIZE THAT GOD'S WAY IS A SUPERIOR WAY OF LIFE and that the ultimate benefits far outweigh any immediate compromise or pleasures. In addition, Scripture says there is a great reward reserved for us in heaven. Matthew 5:11,12; Luke 6:22,23

2. REALIZE HE IS COOPERATING WITH GOD.

a. Being the Salt of the Earth. Salt has two distinct qualities: as a preservative or healing agent, and symbolically as a sign of spiritual health and vigor. When a person stands on the side of right, he will often be an agent of the Lord to stop or reverse a disintegrating situation. Matthew 5:13

b. Being the Light of the World. The Christian's life is God's light in this dark world. (Matthew 5:14,16) God wants to use his life to point men to the Light of the World. (John 8:12) Since not all men will come to the Light, rejection must also be expected.

- ". . . and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light . . . . "

John 3:19b - 21a

**3. RECOGNIZE THAT REPROACH FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS THAT GOD IS USING THE PERSON'S LIFE FOR HIS PURPOSES AND HE IS BEING GLORIFIED.**

- "Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you . . . If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you; on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. "

I Peter 4:12,14 (4:16,19)

**4. SENSE HE HAS A MISSION TO ACCOMPLISH.**

Jesus Christ commanded every Christian to go into all the world.

Matthew 28:18-20

- "Therefore, seeing we have this ministry . . . if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. . . . For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. "

II Corinthians 4:1-6

# HINDRANCES

## TO STANDING ALONE

### A. FEAR OF WHAT OTHERS WILL THINK

- "The fear of man bringeth a snare:  
but whoso putteth his trust in the  
Lord shall be safe."

Proverbs 29: 25

Two of the common causes for this fear are (1) Knowing that the other person "has something on him" - when a person has secretly or openly sinned and never asked forgiveness for the offense, or when he is unwilling to deal with the offense he may back down.

(2) Trying to build his own reputation. There is a tendency to try to "please" everyone. (Luke 6:26) If the person has never yielded his rights to his reputation, he needs to make his reputation God's reputation. Once he is doing what God requires, his reputation becomes the Lord's. If God is not in any way embarrassed by his life, then he can have a real peace about God's reputation."

- "For do I now persuade men, or God? or  
do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased  
men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

Galatians 1:10

## **NOTE:**

- A KEY TO OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF BEING HURT BY OTHER PEOPLE IS TO LEARN HOW TO REACH THEM.

One of the most effective ways to remove the fear of people is to discern the causes for their actions, and attitudes.

Without this insight, an unnatural fear is bound to develop, increasing indiscriminate conformity. When a person sees the real root causes of a person's surface problems he will be in a position to win the very person who made his stand necessary.

## B. SECRET ENVY OF THE WICKED

When a person sees others enjoying the temporary pleasures of sin, he often thinks, "Too bad I'm a Christian." He may rebel or try to get as close to the world as possible. Scripture delivers a very effective message to the person who is envious of the wicked. It describes the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual disintegration within the one who follows a way of life contrary to God's principles.

It is important for a person to visualize the consequences of sin. (Insight into violations of the eight key qualities will be helpful in showing the inner conflicts which the wicked are suffering.)

A person cannot really enjoy sin in a lasting way. Hebrews 11:23-29 relates how God blessed Moses because he chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt."

David tells how he envied the prosperity of the wicked until he went into the sanctuary of God and understood their end:

- "What a slippery path they are on - suddenly God will send them sliding over the edge of the cliff and down to their destruction: an instant end to all their happiness, an eternity of terror. Their present life is only a dream! They will awaken to the truth as one awakens from a dream of things that never really were!"  
Psalm 73:3,17-20 (Living Bible)

## C. FEAR OF LOSING FRIENDS

A person oftentimes feels he is going to lose his friends if he takes a stand for Jesus Christ.

Just the opposite happens! THOSE WHO ARE TRULY HIS FRIENDS WILL RESPECT HIM ALL THE MORE and be happy for his changed life.



A teenage girl had purposed to stand alone at the conclusion of a retreat. She was in tears because she knew this was what the Lord wanted her to do; but she had a very close girl friend and she was sure she would lose her when she told her of her new commitment. The following week I received a letter from her expressing her joy! She said, "I told my girl friend that I had decided to give my total life to Jesus Christ. And do you know what she said? 'Sandy, I'm really happy for you. I've always wanted to talk about God but I've never had anybody to talk to. Now you and I can talk about Him.' "

● THOSE WHO REJECT THE CHRISTIAN HAVE BEEN USING HIM WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVES.

A Christian girl felt she was in love with a Christian fellow. They had been going steady for two years. However, she wasn't ready to get married. She was concerned because their dating relationship was becoming more physical. He wasn't interested in just talking.

After talking over the problem with me, she purposed to ask his forgiveness and terminate the physical aspect of their relationship. But was afraid he would be angry with her. I told her that if his real motive for dating her was not physical, when she took her stand for the Lord in this area, he would ask her forgiveness and love her all the more.

She agreed that if after she took her stand, he kept trying to get her to lower her standards, she would terminate the relationship. Two weeks later she terminated the relationship.

Several months later she called and said, "You'll never guess what! My ex-boy friend has a girl pregnant here at school!"

# VERBALLY

# IDENTIFYING

WITH JESUS CHRIST

● Verbally identifying with Jesus Christ requires: (1) a previous commitment to Him, as well as (2) a right attitude toward the one who asks us to engage in activities which would violate Christ's principles.

● THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT PROVIDES MANY INSIGHTS ON HOW TO IDENTIFY VERBALLY WITH JESUS CHRIST.

A freshman in college secured a job helping a truck driver deliver newspapers. On one of the delivery routes the driver suggested that they stop at a certain place to engage in an activity which this student knew was wrong.

The student became somewhat embarrassed as he tried to explain that he didn't do this type of thing. Finally, however, he agreed to accompany the driver, but not engage in the activity.

Afterwards, the situation troubled his conscience, and he asked his church youth director if he had done right. In response the director explained how to identify verbally with Jesus Christ; he showed him how this would have been much more effective.

A week later another truck driver was assigned to his route. During deliveries he stopped at the same place and made the same suggestion as the first driver. This time the student cheerfully and respectfully requested, "Would it be all right with you if I just waited for you out here?"

When the driver urged him more he replied with a smile, "You see, just recently I committed my whole life to Jesus Christ, and I am just not able to do that. But don't let me interfere with what you want to do. I'll just wait for you here in the truck."

The basic intention of the driver was to have company and approval for something he wanted to do.

● A cheerful friendly attitude is a very essential prerequisite.

● Right wording involves stating personal conviction without projecting a judgmental attitude.

The driver left the truck but in just a few minutes he returned. As he started up the engine, he apologetically blurted out, "Boy, I'm sorry kid, I didn't realize you had that kind of dedication. I wouldn't have asked you if I had known."

"I go to church but I should be more dedicated. How did you commit your life to Jesus Christ?" The student replied that if he had a few minutes he could show him. The driver listened eagerly as the student showed him step by step how to become a Christian.

This opportunity came as a natural by-product of verbally identifying with Jesus Christ. Later that week the student enthusiastically reported to his youth director, "I had to identify with Christ seven times this week. Four of the seven times I was asked how I dedicated my life to Christ and I had the opportunity to share the plan of salvation again."

The driver begins to reveal personal conviction about his lack of a meaningful relationship with God.

The student had learned how to effectively share Christ through the "Four Spiritual Laws" designed by Campus Crusade for Christ.

- "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3: 15

# THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL FRIENDSHIPS

● TO HAVE THE RIGHT FRIENDS A PERSON MUST BE WILLING TO HAVE THE RIGHT ENEMIES.

- A person must ask himself: Did Jesus Christ have friends? Yes, of course He did. Did He have enemies? Yes, He did.

Who His friends would be was not determined by His own choosing. The right friends were determined on the basis of who would accept Him, His life and His verbal commitment to His heavenly Father. Those who would not accept Him separated Him from their company.

- Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when THEY SHALL SEPARATE YOU FROM THEIR COMPANY, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.  
Luke 6:22

- NOTE: It is important to keep in mind that Jesus' enemies were not the common folk but rather "religious" people who didn't buy His dedication. The greatest opposition for some Christians will come from other Christians. This is the peculiar emphasis of being "persecuted for righteousness' sake" (because a person is living the life God requires!).

# HOW TO VERBALLY IDENTIFY

## WITH JESUS CHRIST

Not only what a person says, but how he says it is important. The following guidelines will be helpful in successfully sharing Jesus Christ with others and standing alone when necessary.

### I. RELATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO A POINT IN TIME.

If a person has been a Christian for years but has not been living a dedicated life, he might refer to his recent decision of rededication when he is put on the spot to compromise his commitment.

On the other hand, if the person has not known the Christian prior to the conversation, he could share his salvation commitment.

<u>SOME SITUATIONS FOR IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST.</u>	<u>SOME SUGGESTED STATEMENTS</u>
<u>ACTIVITY</u> Invitation to indulge in an activity or habit incompatible with a person's convictions (such as an invitation to buy an alcoholic beverage).	"No, thank you, I don't drink." (friendly relaxed attitude) Don't force an issue. If the person accepts this explanation, then you don't necessarily identify with the Lord.

If the person is bold enough to ask why he doesn't drink then he has a responsibility to share Christ with Him.

Don't reject the person when you reject the activity. "Well, recently(or whenever it was) I committed my life to Jesus Christ and I don't feel it's something He would want me to do."

DATING

An invitation for a date with a non-Christian or a person with whom the girl is unfamiliar. He asks why she can't accept the invitation.

"Thank you for asking me. I really appreciate it, but I'm not able to accept. I'm not very well acquainted with you. I have committed my life to Jesus Christ and one of my goals for my life is to date fellows who have as deep a love for Christ as I do."

If he shows an interest in knowing more, accepting a date is not the answer. She should invite him to meet with some of her friends.

"Some friends of mine are getting together to share about our relationship with Jesus Christ. We would be happy to have you join us."

DRESS

An invitation to dress in a way that would not be conducive to a Christian's standards.

"I think it's important to be stylish, but since I've committed my life to Jesus Christ I've also purposed to be modest in my appearance." If this is another girl she might add, "I really want people to like me for who I am rather than drawing their attention to my physical appearance."

AUTHORITY

Encouragement to disobey authority.

"No, thank you. Since I've committed my life to Jesus Christ, I've discovered that I'm more successful by responding to those over me rather than always trying to avoid them."

SENSUAL READING MATERIAL

"No, thank you, I've had enough trouble polluting my thought life. Since I've committed my life to Jesus Christ, I've purposed to keep my mind free from any material that messes up my mind."

2. PROJECT THE ATTITUDE THAT YOU ARE "NOT YOUR OWN BOSS"

Since a person has made Jesus Christ "Lord" of his life (Romans 10:9) he can communicate the fact that he's not responsible for the decision; he's merely following the orders of his "boss."

3. DON'T APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT YOU KNOW IS A SUPERIOR WAY OF LIFE.

Take the offensive! For a year and a half after I left seminary, I worked in a factory. I was planning to leave the company in two weeks. Five fellows with whom I had been friends said, "You know, we think if you had worked here for five more years, we could have gotten you to swear." I replied in love, "Look guys, I've had my own share of problems and the kind of problems you say you have - the hangovers, messed up marriages, running out on your mates, etc. - there isn't one good reason why I should want to adopt that way of life!" Before I left the company, two of the fellows had come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

4. USE THE RIGHT WORDING - BE NATURAL.

Communicate the idea that this is what you want to do with your life. Learn to talk about the Lord with non-Christians the same way you would if you were talking to a Christian. Share the same information with anyone.

- A TESTIMONY is what a Christian shares with another Christian about what God has done for him.
- A WITNESS is what a Christian shares with a non-Christian about what God has done for him.

**5. DON'T RESTRICT ANOTHER PERSON'S ACTIVITIES BY YOUR CONVICTIONS (if he is not a member of your immediate family for whom you are directly responsible).**

Too often a person tries to be the Holy Spirit when he confronts a non-committed individual. Don't project Christian standards on another person who has not personally adopted the same standard for his own life. Reminder, it is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin. John 16:7-11

**6. WHEN BELITTLED OR GIVEN A HARD TIME, COMMUNICATE THE IDEA THAT OTHERS HAVE AS PERFECT A RIGHT TO DO WHAT THEY WANT WITH THEIR LIVES AS YOU DO.**

One fellow would say to his friends who were pressuring him to compromise his standards, "Look fellows, you have a perfect right to decide what you want to do and I have the same right to decide how I live. If you feel that is the best for you, fine; and I have purposed to follow Jesus Christ. If that's a risk or mistake, then that's what I've decided."

From that time on they remained friends; when the fellows were involved in "their activities," the Christian wasn't invited.

**7. USE JESUS CHRIST'S NAME IN SHARING WHAT GOD IS DOING FOR YOU.**

Other people are not ashamed to identify with the leader of their ideology. The Christian should be confident, loving and unflinching in following the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

**8. REALIZE THAT THE KEY TO HAVING SUCCESSFUL FRIENDS IS BEING WILLING TO HAVE THE RIGHT ENEMIES. John 17:14 (See notes on page 13.)**

**9. REALIZE THAT THOSE WHO "ACCEPT" YOU WITH CHRIST'S LORDSHIP IN YOUR LIFE ARE LED TO YOU BY GOD.**

As a Christian, be especially sensitive to those God brings into your life. Ask yourself:

- What does God want to accomplish in this person's life?
- How can I cooperate with God?
- What does the Lord want to accomplish in my life through this person?



Guard against assuming responsibility to "reach" everyone who comes into your life or to "solve" all the other person's problems.

Eliminate unnecessary frustration and anxiety: limit yourself to fulfilling only the purpose God wants you to fulfill in the person's life.

- "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour."  
I Corinthians 3: 6-8

10. REALIZE THAT THOSE WHO "SEPARATE" YOU FROM THEIR COMPANY HAVE ALSO REJECTED JESUS CHRIST AND WOULD REJECT HIM IF HE WERE HERE TODAY.

11. RECOGNIZE THAT THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO CHANGE YOU AFTER THEY HAVE ACCEPTED YOU WITH YOUR COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST ARE CONSCIOUSLY OR SUBCONSCIOUSLY TESTING TO SEE IF YOUR COMMITMENT IS GENUINE.

This can become a greater motivation to be faithful to the Lord at any cost. A wonderful life is at stake!

12. WHEN YOU SENSE HOSTILITY OR BITTERNESS, DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF TEACHABILITY RATHER THAN TRYING TO GET YOUR IDEAS ACROSS.

- "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves . . . ."  
II Timothy 2:24,25
- "If you rebuke a mocker, you will only get a smart retort; yes, he will snarl at you. So don't bother with him; he will only hate you for trying to help him."  
Proverbs 9:7,8 (Living Bible)

Also, see Proverbs 23:9; 26:8.

13. EXPECT THE GREATEST OPPOSITION FROM OTHER RELIGIOUS PEOPLE.

A Christian's goal is to allow Jesus Christ to relive His life all over again through his life. If opposition comes, it should come because men are jealous of an exemplary life, not as a reaction of contempt for inferior living or sin in the life.

- "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed." I Peter 4:15,16

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR

# **MAKING**

# **RIGHT DECISIONS**

IN QUESTIONABLE SITUATIONS:

- ☐ When God has given a specific commandment, it is not difficult to know what He requires. But there are many areas in which there are no specific commands. Failure to be consistent in these questionable areas can easily undermine a person's commitment to God. The following insights can be used as a check list in making difficult decisions.

## **PREREQUISITES:**

**HAVE I COMMITTED EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE TO GOD?**

A TOTAL COMMITMENT OF EVERY AREA OF LIFE IS ESSENTIAL TO FOLLOW THE LORD.

- "Trust in the Lord with ALL thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." Proverbs 3:5-7

- Am I willing to sacrifice my desires for God's will?

SACRIFICE IS A BASIC CONDITION FOR DISCIPLESHIP.

Other people pay special attention when a person has the opportunity to choose between two activities of equal interest. Does he choose an activity that is a means of serving the Lord, or one that isn't?

- "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." Luke 9:23, 24

# **SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:**

## 1. Will God be praised?

### WHATEVER I DO SHOULD BRING GLORY TO GOD.

The word glory means "an opinion, estimate." In application, honor to God should result from the good opinion of God our lives have given to Him because of our exemplary life.

- "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

## 2. Can I thank God for this activity?

2.

### JESUS HIMSELF WOULD ENDORSE MY DECISION.

- "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." Colossians 3:17

3. Can some spiritual worth come of this activity?

IT SHOULD BUILD CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IN MY LIFE.

- "I may do anything, but everything is not useful (profitable, advantageous). Yes, I may do anything, but everything is not constructive (promote spiritual character and growth)."

I Corinthians 10:23

4. Would it bother me if I didn't do it?

IT SHOULD NOT CONTROL ME.

- "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

I Corinthians 6:12

5. Will I cause a weaker Christian to sin?

I AM RESPONSIBLE TO GOD FOR WEAKER CHRISTIANS.

The Apostle Paul states that if my eating the kind of meat a new Christian used to offer to idols (before his conversion) would cause him to be offended, then my right to eat that meat should be yielded. Another person's spiritual life is far more important than my enjoyment of an activity which I can personally justify.

- "But take heed lest by ANY MEANS this liberty of your's become a stumblingblock to them that are weak . . . . When ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. WHEREFORE, IF MEAT MAKE MY brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." I Corinthians 8: 9-13

6. Am I in doubt? Don't do it!

I MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT IN WHAT I AM DOING.

- "Your personal convictions are a matter of faith between yourself and God, and you are happy if you have no qualms about what you allow yourself to eat. Yet if a man eats meat with an uneasy conscience about it, you may be sure he is wrong to do so. For his action does not spring from his faith, and when we act apart from our faith we sin."  
Romans 14:22,23 (Phillips)

7. Will I get God's ultimate approval?

I MUST ACCOUNT TO GOD FOR ALL MY ACTIONS.

- "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."  
Romans 14:11, 12

- "We can always 'prove' that we are right, but is the Lord convinced?"  
Proverbs 16:2 (Living Bible)

8. It is important what other people think.

MY BEHAVIOR SHOULD AVOID ALL APPEARANCES OF EVIL.

- "Abstain from all appearance of evil."  
1 Thess. 5:22
- "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."  
Ephesians 5: 15,16

● AS YOU STUDY SCRIPTURE, CONTINUE TO ADD TO THIS LIST AS THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES YOU FURTHER INSIGHT INTO MAKING RIGHT DECISIONS.

9.

● Below are listed some areas in which Scripture is vague or does not deal with the subject in a thorough way. Which topics does Scripture not even mention? Can you think of some Scripture which does deal with some of the topics listed?

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SCRIPTURES ?



- ABORTION
- BOWLING
- CARD GAMES
- DANCING
- DATING
- DRESS
- DRINKING (alcoholic)
- DRUGS
- FALSE RELIGIONS
- FOOD (eating certain kinds)

- FRIENDS
- GAMBLING
- HOROSCOPES
- INTER-RACIAL MARRIAGE
- MIXED SWIMMING
- POOL
- RADIO
- SMQKING
- SUNDAY ACTIVITIES
  - Shopping
  - Sports
- TELEVISION