

Intro: The Question I get MOST often goes something like this: “Pastor, I’m so confused I’m not sure if I should:
>be in this relationship >Take that new Job >Move to that new location

“What does God want me to do? ”Can you help me figure out what God wants me to do!?”

Problem is, look at hard as you will, Not going to find, “Marry Darlene Thomas” or, “Serve the new church in Annapolis”

So, HOW DO YOU DETERMINE THE WILL OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE?

I don’t presume to have THE FINAL ANSWER...but I in Eph 5 the Apostle Paul gives us some guidance

Eph 5:15-21 Page 828

Questions To Ask Yourself That Will Help You Make a Good and Godly Decision

We want to look at this issue in two ways: First, The GENERAL Questions...Then The Specific

1. Three General Questions That Help Us Make Godly Decisions.

#1: Does This Decision/Action Help Me Walk More Closely With Christ? Vs 15

Be Very Careful: Lit = *to walk precisely; carefully; to watch where you place your feet (Tightrope walker!)*

- Micah 6:8 “*He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*”

➤ Walk justly? Walk in mercy? Walk humbly w God?

#2: Is This a WISE Decision/Action? Vs 15

Not as unwise but as wise: Lit = *the right use of moral and spiritual knowledge*

- This is not a question of right and wrong, moral or immoral
Instead, we are asking, “Does this help me IMPLEMENT what I already know spiritually?
Because, that’s what wisdom is, the practical, daily application of spiritual knowledge
- Sometimes we simply need to ask, is this a SPIRITUALLY SMART thing to do?

Illus: When I first became a Christian, all my relationships were w/ people that didn’t know Jesus

So, I tried to maintain them, even when they were doing things not spiritual, legal, moral

Finally I learned a very hard lesson. I could still be in relationship...but not at those times!

Wasn’t wrong for me to be with them...but the temptation, loss of reputation, appearance of evil

It wasn’t WRONG...it simply wasn’t WISE

#3: Does This Decision/Action Help Me Move The Kingdom of God Forward? Vs 16

Making the most of every opportunity: *Take advantage of opportunity, (redeem time) buy back*

Basically there is a window of opportunity for Spiritual things...Does this help me take advantage of it?

- “Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done” Luke 11:2

In Lord’s Prayer *It is the first thing we pray AFTER we give Glory to God!*

Illus: The single most valuable thing we have in life is time! Paul says, USE IT WISELY!!! For Impact

This is an admonition by Paul that says, listen, when you have an opportunity to make a spiritual impact

Don’t let it slip away!

Applic: Some of you will have noticed that we have been using the opportunity of the merger to reach out

This is likely a once in a lifetime opportunity to have something like this happen

Two churches becoming one: It represents the best of all that church should be (Spiritual Unity)

Sharing staff, Resources, Ministry, Iron Sharpening Iron

So, in keeping with that, every month from Sept to Jan we are doing something special and communicating

Merger Service, Trunk R Treat, First Responders, Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve, New Series in Jan
Next week, Have two opportunities:

>Christmas Concert: >Christmas Eve: Cards available Here is my Challenge

Make the most of the opportunity we have to Invite People: Christmas is Tremendous Outreach Opportunity

4. Is This Decision/Action In Keeping With The Express Will Of God Found In The Bible. Vs 17

Understand what the Lord’s Will is: Understand: **Lit** = *to put the pieces of something together (God’s Word, Our World)*

Will: **Lit** = *His Determination, Desire, Inclination, Purpose and Intention or Pleasure*

There are at least 7 Different Times Where the Bible Tells Us in the NT: This is the Will of God!

- It is God’s will that you give yourself to Him!
2 Co 8:5: “...but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will...”
- It is God’s will that you be transformed into the likeness of Christ.
Rom 12:2: “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is...”
- It is God’s Will that you be spiritually and morally pure
1 Thess 4:3: “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality...”
Sanctified: Lit = *to be purified; or to be made holy or without sin, to be set apart for Him*
- It is God’s will that you and those you know come into relationship with Him
2 Pe 3:9: “(The Lord) is patient with you, not willing that anyone perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”
Is this decision/action going to help me share the Gospel, or will it hinder me?

- It is God's Will that you live a life of thanksgiving and praise.
1 Thess 5:18 *"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*
It is God's will that you give Him thanks IN everything...Not FOR everything!
Illus: Jenn's new home: Called when the other fell through...it was AWFUL! (Paul in prison: Epistles)

- It is God's Will that you be controlled by His Spirit in your daily life
Ephesians 5:18 *"Be Filled with the Spirit"*
Does this decision/Action help me to be more surrendered to the Spirit of God in my life?
There are some activities that will help...and some that will hinder!
Applic: Let me be clear: Bible does not say, You cant have a drink. But is DOES say, don't get drunk
For some people myself included, drinking is not a WISE idea! Leads to all kinds of problems

- It is God's Will That You Live in Submission to Those He Establishes in Your Life.
"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Vs 21
Submit: To voluntarily arrange yourself under direction of
Applic: Choice you make in any different number of areas
 - To Him James 4:7
 - To Governments Those in authority 1Peter 2:13
 - To Those in Spiritual leadership Hebrews 13:17
 - To Family Headship
 - Wives to husbands Eph 5:22
 - Children to Parents Eph 6:1
 - To Those who you serve and work forph 6:5

CONCL:

1. Help me walk more closely with Christ
2. Is this Spiritually wise?
3. Does this move the KOG forward?
4. Does this help me give myself to God more fully?
5. Does this help me be spiritually transformed to be more like Jesus?
6. Does this help me be spiritually and morally pure?
7. Does this help me bring people into relationship with Him?
8. Does this help me give God thanks and praise?
9. Does this help me be controlled by God's Spirit?
10. Does this help me submit to God's established authority in my life?