

SOME BIBLE GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW
TO DETERMINE WHAT IS RIGHT OR
WRONG:

We might often wish the Bible con-
DO'S and DON'TS for every specific
act that might be thought up by
the fanciful thinking of man and
Satan.

In a general sense there is noth-
ing new under the sun. temptation
still comes in the same old ways:
the Lust of the flesh, lust of the
eyes, Pride of life.

But the specifics have changed
with each passing generation, and
they think up new ways, new cus-
toms, and different ways of com-
mitting the same old sins.

We are prone to say to ourselves
"The Bible doesn't say anything
about this particular act, whether
right or wrong, so it leaves me
free to indulge or not as I see
fit. ESD must have secular knowledge of it

But the Bible was not written for
just the generation living at the
time, it was written to be a guide
and a light for all time to come.

Much as we might wish it set ev-
erything down in either black or
white, do or don't, God did not
give it to us that way. our volition
God dealt with the things that
happened at the time the Bible
was being written, but in such a

way that the principles made known
by the Holy Spirit then are applica-
ble ~~under~~ to any situation that
may arise today, and these principles
applied to today's course of action
are just as valid a guide as if
they had been set down in so many
words, black or white, do or don't.

God did not make us as animals,
he gave us a spirit, a mind, reason-
ing power to understand His will,
made known to us through these
principles. + a heart to love Him.

Command - Ex - nec. inf.

How grateful we should be that God
deals with us in such great mercy
in this Christian dispensation.
Under the Mosaic Law, the laws were
all spelled out specifically, black
and white, do or don't. It may
have made it easier to know at a
glance just what God wanted done,
right down to the minutest detail,
and there were many of them.

BUT it left no room for mercy if
one of these laws were broken.
They must all be kept right down
to the smallest jot or tittle, for
one to be justified in God's
sight then. No one ever was able
to do this, and that is why the
Law of Moses was unable to effect
man's salvation. A law of mercy
and grace had to be given, for
under the law of Moses every trans-
gression and disobedience received
a JUST recompense of reward, and

Heb 13:9

justice meant death. (Heb. 2:2)
Heb. 10:28 says "he died without MERCY on the word of 2 or 3 witnesses." *Compare Heb 8:12*

Under the law of Moses there was no allowance made for the differences between the BABE IN CHRIST and the MATURE CHRISTIAN, or between the WEAK CHRISTIAN and the STRONG. Read 1 Cor. 8.

There was ^{allowance} no place for GROWTH IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING, or for ADDING to our faith the seven Christian graces mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5-7, in ever INCREASING amounts.

There was no ^{difference} ~~room~~ under the law for ^{having} ~~rendered~~ a willing service to God in a measure based on our love and gratitude for God ^{sullen} obedience.

An example of what I mean by this may be cited in the law to the Jews concerning their giving: a tithe, specific amounts set down. Under the law of Christ, the N.T. no specific amount is given, no YES or NO amount, no BLACK or WHITE deal, but it is to be based on our ever-increasing love for God and His mercies.
~~The law on number of times wk to assemble.~~

I do not mean to say that God has a different rule for each person, or that each person makes up his own rules to live by based on some

tests or

Some of the 'guidelines which will help us make choices as to our course of action, ~~whether certain~~ deciding whether a certain thing is right or wrong may be found in the following ~~teaching~~:

1. The test is not : "Everybody's doing it! It must be all right." Gen. 6:12; Rom. 12:1,2
all flesh had corrupted his way.
2. Be thoroughly convinced in your own mind about the rightness of it, Remembering always that a clear conscience alone does not prove a thing right. Rom. 14:23; Jno. 16:2
3. Is it something that will lead to intemperance? See Habakkuk 2:5; 2 Pet. 1:6.
4. Will it influence ^{weak} someone else to sin? ^{Or offend a brother?} The test of a Christian is whether one is willing to deny self for the sake of a weak brother. Matt. 16:24; Rom. 14:15; 1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 14:21; 1 Cor. 8:13.
5. Will my light as a Christian shine if I follow this course of action? Or will the church suffer reproach because of my indulgence in it? Thess. 5:22
6. Can I honestly ask God to be with me as I engage in it?

7. Will it ~~help~~ encourage others to live nearer to Christ? See the good of others. 1 Cor. 10:24; Rom. 15:2
obey V 142

8. Will this behavior be becoming to the gospel of Christ?

Phil. 1:27 Gal 2:11-14 Peter had 2 rules - hypocrisy

9. Will it glorify God or lead others to glorify Him? 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Pet. 2:11,12.

10. Will it be an example to others as a manner of life pleasing to God? 1 Tim. 4:12 / 2 Thess. 3:9

world sets high std.
~~Am I using my liberty in Christ as a license to exude selfishness?~~
1 Pet 2:15,16 Gal 5:13

11. As a servant of God, am I sure this will be pleasing to God, even tho I find no express ^{ed specific} command against it? Titus 2:9; 1 Jno. 3:22

12. Have I sincerely examined my motives to discern if I am sincerely seeking ^{to} follow Christ in self-denial for a brother's sake, or trying ^{just} to find a loop-hole that will permit me to do something that I want to do? ~~Am I using my liberty in Christ as a license to exude selfishness?~~

1 Pet. 2:15,16; Gal. 5:13.

These are decisions only you can make. Remember that all sin is based on selfishness. Pray that you enter not into temptation (Mt. 26:41) & work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Phil. 2:12