

How Do I Know God's Will?: Principles for a God-Directed Life (Part 5)

Where NOT to Start...

- Not Advice / Circumstances / Consensus / Desires / Feelings

3 Key Steps

1. *Identify Specific Commands*
2. *Evaluate General Principles*
3. *Exercise Biblical Wisdom*

Principle #1: The Principle of PRIORITY (Am I seeking God's work and God's way in this?)

Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Principle #2: The Principle of AUTHORITY (Am I regarding God-ordained authority?)

Rom 13:1-2 *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

1. **Toward God** (James 4:7)
2. **In the Family**
 - *Wives to Husbands* (Col 3:18)
 - *Children to Parents* (Eph 6:10)
3. **In the Church**
 - *To Spiritual Leaders* (Heb 13:17a)
 - *To Older Leaders* (1 Pet 5:5a)
 - *Believers Are To Submit To Those Devoted To Service* (1 Cor 16:15-16)
 - *Women In Silence* (1 Tim 2:11)
 - *To One Another* (Eph 5:21)
4. **Towards the World**
 - *To Government Leaders* (1 Pet 2:13-14)
 - *To Human Masters* (Titus 2:9)

Principle #3: The Principle of COMMUNITY

Does this support and serve the local body of believers in which God has placed me?

1. **Unity: My connection in the Body?** (1 Cor 10:14-17)
2. **Humility: My consideration of the Body?** (1 Cor 11:27-34)
3. **Responsibility: My obligation to the Body?** ("one anothers")
 - *To serve and be served* (1 Cor 12:12-26; Rom 12:3-8)
 - *To stir up, assemble, & encourage* (Heb 10:24-25)
 - *To give* (1 John 3:16-23)
 - *To teach and admonish* (Col 3:16)

Principle #4: The Principle of _____

One Key Motivation: Jesus' _____

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. ... ^{3:1} Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 Jn. 2:28; 3:1-3; cf. 4:17)

1. Does This Promote the Purity of My _____ ?

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.

Job 31:1 I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman? (cf. Matt 5:27-30)

2. Does This Promote the Purity of My _____ ?

1 Cor. 6:13-20 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. ¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Thes 4:3-5 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

3. Does This Promote the Purity of My _____ ?

Titus 2:4-5 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ *to be* discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (cf. 1 Pet 3:1-2)

1 Pet. 1:13-19 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (cf. Eph 5:1-7; Rom 6:12-13)

4. Does This Promote the Purity of My _____ ?

1 Thes 4:6-7 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

1 Tim 5:1-2 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort *him* as a father, younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, younger as sisters, with all purity.