

**How Do I Know God's Will?:
Principles for a God-Directed Life (Part 4)**

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

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

Am I seeking God's work and God's way in this?

Principle #2: The Principle of AUTHORITY

Romans 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.*

Am I regarding God-ordained authority?

1. **Toward God**

James 4:7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

2. **In the Family**

• **Wives to Husbands**

Col 3:18 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

• **Children to Parents**

Eph 6:1 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

3. **In the Church**

• **To Spiritual Leaders**

Heb 13:17a *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.*

• **To Older Leaders**

1 Pet 5:5a *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.*

• **Believers Are To Submit To Those Devoted To Service**

1 Cor 16:15-16 ¹⁵ I urge you, -- you know the household of Stephanas, ... *and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints --* ¹⁶ *that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.*

• **Women In Silence**

1 Tim 2:11 *Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.*

• **To One Another**

Eph 5:21 *submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

4. **Towards the World**

• **To Government Leaders**

1 Pet 2:13-14 *Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.*

• **To Human Masters**

Titus 2:9 *Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,*

Principle #3: The Principle of _____

Am I acting on:

a. _____: **My _____ in the Body?**

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷ For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread. (1 Cor 10:14-17)

b. _____: **My _____ of the Body?**

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. ³³ Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come. (1 Cor. 11:27-34 NKJ)

c. _____: **My _____ to the Body?**

- 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)