

The Corinthian Grid

7 Guidelines for Discernment in Holiness

Do you often wonder how God feels about drinking, smoking, music, relationships, chewing tobacco, drugs, kissing, bars, thoughts, speech, and other areas of your life? Many times we are tempted to classify these areas in a category sometimes referred to as “gray areas”. Gray is a combination of two totally opposite and distinct colors: black and white. Since gray falls somewhere between black and white in color, and is neither clearly black nor white, we have a tendency to categorize areas of unclarity as gray. This causes us to be unsure of ourselves in these areas and easily influenced by others. A person who does not have clarity from God’s word in these areas is a person who is “tossed here and there by the waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14).

On the other hand, God is a God of Truth and clarity. He is definitely not a gray God and does not want His children to fall to deceit through unclarity. That is why He gives us His written word from which we can discover unchanging principles on which we can structure our lives. We can find principles from God’s word that apply to every area of our lives. God gives us these principles so that we can have confidence in our relationship with God and develop our own personal convictions in all areas.

In order to help you develop your own personal convictions, I have drawn up a grid made up of general principles from I Corinthians. They were dealing with the same questions then that you deal with now. Pick out a specific area of your life and take it through the grid. Look up the passage and then meditate on the principle. Remember to read the passage in context by reading the verses before and after the passage. Finally, apply the principle to the specific area by asking yourself the application question. Be honest with yourself and with God and allow Him to form your heart in the same mold as Christ’s.

Edification: I Corinthians 6:12, Galatians 6:8

Principle: Do things that profit my relationship with Christ.

Application: Will I grow in godliness and intimacy with Christ B/C of this?

Entanglement: I Corinthians 6:18, 9:24, Hebrews 12:1

Principle: Do not allow anything to slow you down or tempt you.

Application: Does this slow me down in the race or tempt me to sin?

Enslavement: I Corinthians 6:12

Principle: Do not allow yourself to be mastered by anything but Christ.

Application: Could this master me or get me in its control?

Emmulation: I Corinthians 11:1, I John 2:6

Principle: Do things that would be consistent with Jesus’ heart and life.

Application: Would Jesus do this? Is this activity Christ-like?

Example: I Corinthians 8:9-13, Mark 9:42

Principle: Do not cause others to stumble with my choices.

Application: Does this strengthen or cause others to stumble?

Evangelism: I Corinthians 9:19-23

Principle: Do all things for the sake of reaching others for Christ.

Application: Does this help or hinder me in reaching others for Christ?

Exaltation: I Corinthians 10:31

Principle: Do everything for the Glory of God.

Application: Does this lift up, honor and show off God?

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