

Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
you will hear a voice saying, "This is the road!
Now follow it."
Isaiah 30:21

Decisions Week 4

Liberty Towers Church of the Nazarene
Men's study

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Decisions Week two Review

- Shine
- Question
- Cross
- Think
- Apply

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Shine - What do you remember for last week that had the brightest light

Question – What idea or concept raised a question

Cross – What idea or concept revealed something about the character or ministry of Jesus

Think – What idea or concept made a difference in your life this past week

Apply – What did you do differently this week because of the lesson



Where we have been

- ▶ Guidelines for Christian Decision Making
- ▶ General call to all christians
 1. In all decisions, the believer should humbly submit, in advance, to the outworkings of God's will as it touches every decision. Seek First
 2. Areas specifically addressed by God's revealed will are to be obeyed.
Living sacrifice

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Where we have been

■ Guidelines for Christian Decision Making

■ General call

1. In all decisions, the believer should humbly submit, in *advance*, to the outworkings of God's will as it touches every decision. Seek First
2. Areas specifically addressed by God's revealed will are to be *obeyed*. Living sacrifice

■ Specific or individual call

1. In those areas where there is no specific revelation of God's will, the believer is free and responsible to choose the course of action.

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Morals and Ethics

- **Morals**
 - From the latin Moralitas (Manner, character, proper behavior)
 - The conduct or rules that a person or community adhere to
 - A belief that they are obligatory.
 - I follow the rules.
 - Set by custom and society
 - A concept or idea
- **Ethics**
 - Critical reflection of morals
 - Personal actions in response to morals
 - I am responsible for my actions
 - The science of morals
 - Character of the individual
 - A action or thought

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Last week Biblical understanding of Morals a definition of right and wrong set by a society or organization or belief
 Tonight understanding of ethics

The world the two are almost synonymous (the same thing)

A person who knows the **difference between** right and wrong and chooses right is **seen as moral person..**

A person whose **morality** is reflected in his willingness to do the right thing – even if it is hard or dangerous – is **ethical. Ethics are moral values** in action.

Morals is derived from the Greek word MOS meaning custom

Ethics is Derived from the Greek word Ethikos meaning character

Accountability and Decision making

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Object lesson

Drinking demonstration

What is wrong with drinking at Men's Study time?

I am a Christian

I have been made righteous by God's mercy

I study to make myself approved, rightly dividing the word of truth

I make my decisions according to the will of God as I understand it.

Some of you drink coffee – there are those who believe that coffee not a good thing
Catholics drink...

Benedictine Monks make and sell alcohol

Jesus drank wine. He even made wine at his first miracle at Cana of Gallaly


What is wrong with a little wine for your stomach's sake. I Timothy 5:23

Throughout the first 1,800 years of [Church history](#), [Christians](#) generally consumed [alcoholic beverages](#) as a common part of everyday life

They held that both the [Bible](#) and [Christian tradition](#) taught that alcohol is a gift from [God](#) that makes life more [joyous](#),

over-indulgence leading to [drunkenness](#) is [sinful](#) or at least a [vice](#).

[Anglicanism](#), [Lutheranism](#), [Roman Catholicism](#), and [Eastern Orthodoxy](#).



Free Will to choose

- ▶ **In those areas where the Bible gives no command or principle the believer is free and responsible to choose the course of action**
- ▶ Our decisions are about who we are
- ▶ Responsibility for the choice
- ▶ Personality
- ▶ Our character and Gods character
- ▶ Spiritual gifting
- ▶ Opportunity Col 4:5

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In those areas where the Bible gives no command or principle the believer is free and responsible to choose the course of action

- ▀ Dependant upon both freedom and responsibility
- ▀ Are you Free?
 - ▀ Freedom is dependant upon control.
 - ▀ Freedom is all about decisions
- ▀ I was born with a nature that tried to ignore god
 - ▀ His commands, his principles, his examples – to live a life as I want
 - ▀ But with knowledge and understanding I changed

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If there is no command
 If there is no principle
 If there is no example
 If it is not a moral decision
YOU ARE FREE to CHOOSE the course of action
 And each of these actions have responsibilities associated with it.

There are effects of our free will

SO we have to decide here and now...
ARE YOU FREE?

BETTER QUESTION.... HOW MUCH CONTROL DO I HAVE NO CONTROL I AM NOT FREE.

SNEEZE ---- little control
 Sneeze in your coffee. Quite a bit.

Control = responsibility

Something we currently have no control.

I have a bad liver

Doctor. Caused by thousands of choices I had control over

Some I did not. Genetics and predisposition... could well blame it on

my MOM

But now I know

I can make decisions to limit additional damage I can
 live on 10% of a liver

If I don't Liver transplant or death

So I control my salt, I have to lose an additional 35
 pounds I can't smoke marijuana, I can't drink 120 proof whiskey.

When I was a baby I urinated any time I wanted

Now I have learned to control myself. I am glad most of you have also learned this lesson.

I Corinthians 13:11

When I was a child I talked, thought, reasoned as a child
But now I have done away with childish things.

Christian mindset


- Seek first
- Obey commands, principles, examples
- I am free and responsible

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Old Show on TV Barretta main character Robert Blake
“Don’t do the crime if you can’t do the time.”

Control and consequence.


The Third rule is all about Personal accountability when you exercise free will.



Christian sinning

- We are Christians
- We are born again
- Out of our being comes our doing.
- BUT what happens when a Christian sins?
- Can a Christian sin?

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If we as Christians sin how are we to know we are saved?

- After salvation there is a constant conflict within us
 - How do I know I have been saved?
 - How do I have the deep seated peace of assurance that I belong to God?
 - Where is the confidence that I have changed from death to life?
 - How do we know that judgement is behind us?
 - How do we know that death is behind us?
 - How do we at least lessen the doubt?

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Jesus died once for all it was a one time thing. John



Jesus tells us in the gospel of John 5:24

- Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

John restates it in 1 John 5:13-14

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God.

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Bible study in First John

■ First John 4:1-3

- Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come into the flesh is from God. But every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.
- Gnostic belief

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Gnostics line of thought.

1. Christ was always a spirit
2. Christ was always separated from the flesh
3. When Jesus was born as a physical being not any different from you or me
4. The Spirit of Christ filled Jesus and were separated by a gulf of perfection and imperfection
5. Christ the invisible within Jesus the visible
6. Christians are like this Jesus/Christ existence
7. We are born of God and filled with his spirit at our conversion
8. Our physical never touches the spiritual. Great gulf of perfection and imperfection
9. The physical can do as it likes but it will never affect the spiritual
10. Sin is a physical thing, a doing thing that is apart from the spiritual
11. Once saved the immortal soul can not be touched by what the body does.

Trying to disconnect Christ from the flesh

Didn't like the idea of a pre-existent Christ becoming a physical Jesus

There had to be a separation. Between Christ and Jesus

-----If there was a separation then Christians had an equally separated existence.

The disconnection of Christians from the responsibility of the flesh

- ▶ My acts are part of the body and don't mean anything
- ▶ My righteousness comes from the spirit only
- ▶ I can be righteous without doing anything righteous.

Gnostic view of assurance

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If Jesus was separated from the flesh
If there was little concern for the body
If the acts of righteousness of the body are not relevant to the spirit
If the knowledge, the intellectual, possesses spirit.
If the spirit knows God

- The body does not matter
- Live like you want you are a child of God
- There is no requirement of doing anything
- Doing is a physical thing.

Johns arguments # 1

- ▶ First John 4:2 "is Come"
 - ▶ Not he came as a one time thing
 - ▶ The perfect nature of God is perfectly joined
 - ▶ No separation

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Christ in the flesh

Not came as a one time thing

Is Come, Has always been and will always be

Jesus Christ is not a symbolic relationship for a while then over

Christ nature is totally, perfectly united and will ever be so.

He came in the flesh and will ever be in the flesh forever

The physical being of Jesus was not a spector, a ghost, an illusion, or a

mirages

His body is not secondary to who he is. His body is inextricably joined

for all eternity

It is who He is then now and forever.

John's second argument

► I John 2:29

If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.


► Christ's acts were righteous acts because he was righteous.

► *HIS Doing is the evidence of HIS being*

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Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous

The spiritual life **cannot** be separated from the physical doing
Gnostics Be righteous in your spirit but you don't have to practice righteousness



John's third argument

- False teachers disconnected the physical from the spiritual in the Christian

- I John 3:7

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous

- **Our Doing confirms our being**

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Christian Sin

► First John 3:9

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

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Practicing sin is the other side of the coin.

If the flesh is joined with the spirit is there a responsibility for our sin?

There is a seed planted in every believer. And it remains in him

The evidence of habitual sin is the evidence of the lack of this seed.

Just as Jesus in the incarnation is united, melted into a single inseparable perfect.

Body – the physical, Spirit – God

In regeneration, the new creation, (Christian) Christ is real in us. The

Seed

Greater is he who is in me than him who is in the world

This union inevitably effects our physical life of obedience

Sin in the Christian

- There are no sinless Christians
 - I John 1:8

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- The born again have a special privilege of an advocate
 - I John 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin, But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous one.
- But there is a line
 - I John 5:16-17

If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

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I John 1:8 inclusive WE – JOHN

I john 2:1 John is not saying if you sin you are not born again

But only those who are born again have a special, perfect, advocate with the father

This advocate is fully aware of your struggle of your inner despair.

1 it is your brother or sister. They have been born again. They have the seed of Christ.


2 This sin that leads to death is not a specific to a big list of rules and regulations. Not a kind or category of Sin

3 it is in the persistence of sin, the rootedness

a habitual persistence

There is a line of no return

When the seed dies.



Two dangers of responsibility

- Persistence of sin
- The precipice of despair

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Our response to our own sin

- If we have come to a place of presumption of the grace of God
 - The sin that I do does not really hurt anyone.
 - No body knows about it
 - It displays itself as a slipping into luke warmness
 - Coasting along
 - Loosing diligence to your vulnerability
 - Allowing band attitude and actions to slip in.
 - Settling into sinful patterns
 - The doing reveals the being
- 1 John 3:9


No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God seed remains in them, they can not go on sinning because they are born of god.

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It is the seed within the Saved that recognizes the issues.
And we are driven to the advocate.

If we don't we I john 3:9 you cant to on sinning and be born of God.
Mutual exclusiveness.

The preference of anything over God is separation from God.




Second response to our sinning

- DISPair
 - Feelings of not being good enough
 - Your fight is not as well organized
 - Your conscience is condemning you
 - Your deeds are self assessed as not good enough
 - Always saying I could have done better.
 - I missed the mark

- First John 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father.






In those areas where the Bible gives no command or principle the believer is free and responsible to choose the course of action

Both Good things and bad things.

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Next Week

▶ Fourth guideline for Christian
Decision Making

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