

The Corinthian Grid

Guidelines for Discernment in Holiness



Pick one gray area you are dealing with in your life right now. Based on *your own opinions*, is it okay to do this:

Never

Depends

Always

Edification: 1 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: 1 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: 1 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: 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 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: 1 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: 1 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: 1 Corinthians 10:31

Principle: Do everything for the Glory of God.

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

Four H's of 1 Corinthians

1. Is it **helpful**, beneficial, or constructive for me? Does it cause me to grow spiritually or help others grow? (6:12a; 10:23)
2. Is it a **habit**? Is it an addictive behavior? Does it hold me in its power? Do I feel I need this to be happy and fulfilled? Does it control my thoughts or actions? (6:12b)
3. Is it **hurtful** for another? A weaker Christian? In doing it, would I hurt someone else or cause them to be tempted to go against their conscience (what they think is right)? Is it hurtful for a non-Christian? Could my behavior cause a non-Christian to ignore the gospel or disregard Christ? (8:13; 10:24-11:1)
4. Is it **honoring** to God? Glorifying God means to exalt God, to please Him by seeking his interests above our own interests. In doing it, would I bring glory to God, or dishonor him? (10:31)

The Corinthian Grid (Leader's Guide)

7 Guidelines for Discernment in Holiness

What are some things you have observed other people do or have done yourself that you've questioned whether it's OK to participate in?

Gray Areas

Examples: Drinking alcohol, smoking, pre-marital sex, dating a non-Christian, unhealthy dieting, watching questionable movies (rated R)/TV shows, gambling, physical intimacy (no sex), going to clubs/bars, using a fake ID, living with a member of the opposite sex, cheating, dressing provocatively, swearing, magazines (SI swimsuit issue)

Pick one gray area you are dealing with in your life right now. Based on *your own opinions*, is it okay to do this:

Never

Depends

Always

Take the gray area through the Corinthian Grid. Look up the first verse. They can look up the other verses on their own. Answer the questions as you go.

Edification: 1 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: 1 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: 1 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: 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 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: 1 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: 1 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: 1 Corinthians 10:31

Principle: Do everything for the Glory of God.

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

Four H's of 1 Corinthians

Helpful questions to ask when faced with a gray area:

1. Is it **helpful**, beneficial, or constructive for me? Does it cause me to grow spiritually or help others grow? (6:12a; 10:23)
2. Is it a **habit**? Is it an addictive behavior? Does it hold me in its power? Do I feel I need this to be happy and fulfilled? Does it control my thoughts or actions? (6:12b)
3. Is it **hurtful** for another? A weaker Christian? In doing it, would I hurt someone else or cause them to be tempted to go against their conscience (what they think is right)? Is it hurtful for a non-Christian? Could my behavior cause a non-Christian to ignore the gospel or disregard Christ? (8:13; 10:24-11:1)
4. Is it **honoring** to God? Glorifying God means to exalt God, to please Him by seeking his interests above our own interests. In doing it, would I bring glory to God, or dishonor him? (10:31)