

### **application**

What type of decisions were the above scenarios and the other ones that were suggested?

What do you think motivation has to do with our decisions?

Why should you want to make godly decisions?

What makes it hard to make godly decisions?

How are you going at making godly decisions in your life?

*Pray and ask God that his grace would teach you how to say "no" to ungodliness.*

### **big brother**

If ALL of your actions AND thoughts were captured on camera... would you be comfortable for the footage to be shown on national TV? What about on the video at camp? Or on video at your local Youth Group?? Your actions in all situations should be actions that you are not ashamed of, and that you are not embarrassed for others to know about. This is a good principle for all areas of our lives. In everything we do, either while by ourselves or with others we should not be ashamed if others saw what we did on video.

### **biggest father**

Our motivation to be godly shouldn't just be that our friends or parents or leaders might find out about what we have been up to. Why should we be seeking to be godly? When we see God's grace we should be motivated to say 'No' to ungodliness. When we know what it cost God to forgive us we should no longer live for ourselves, but we should live to please him.

Our Father in heaven is always watching everything we do. Unlike Big Brother, God sees everything we do and think. Ultimately it is before God that we are accountable – is it pleasing for him to see what you are doing and thinking? *Are you making godly decisions that glorify him?*

### **further reading**

#### **In the Bible:**

Matthew 5-7; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:8-10; 4:20-24; Colossians 3:12-16; 1Timothy4:7-10; 2Timothy 3:10-12; Titus 1:1; 2:11-12; 2Peter 1:5-9;

#### **Other Books:**

P.D. Jensen & T. Payne, *Guidance and the voice of God* (Sydney: Matthias Media, 1997).  
J. Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness* (Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1996).  
K. Hawtrey, *The true and living God* (Sydney: Matthias Media, 1998).  
P.D. Jensen & T. Payne, *Pure sex* (Sydney: Matthias Media, 1998).

# Godly Decision Making



## TRT AD2002-2003

### what would you do???

What thought process would you go through to help you make the following decisions:

1. Whether to go to an under18s Dance Party?
2. What colour paint to paint your bedroom with?
3. If you will 'go out' with a non-Christian?

What are some of the many situations that you may be in where you will have to make a decision (easy or hard)?

### daily decisions

There are many decisions that we have to make. We make a great number of decisions each day. Some decisions are important, some are less important. Some decisions are big and significant, some are small and insignificant. Some decisions are difficult to make, some are easy to make. Some require us to consciously think, and many we do without thinking. Nevertheless there are many decisions that we have to make day to day.

***And as Christians, we should be always seeking to make wise and godly decisions.***

### what is godliness?

*"... a God-honouring manner of life, issuing from a true knowledge of God and his grace in Christ Jesus."*

### why do/should Christians want to make godly decisions?

In **2Corinthians5:14-15**, it is Christ's love that compels us to no longer live for ourselves. It is knowing that he has died and risen again for us that motivates us to no longer live for ourselves but live for Jesus. This passage in 2Corinthians is similar to other places in the Bible that talk about God's grace, and how in view of God's grace we ought to be living transformed lives. We ought to be living godly lives because of God's grace to us in Christ Jesus.

Paul's letter to Titus is all about "...the truth that leads to godliness." It is a knowledge of the truth and God's grace revealed to us in Christ Jesus that lead us to living godly lives. **Read Titus 2:11-12.** This passage tells us that it is God's grace that teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness, and therefore it also teaches us how to say 'Yes' to godliness. Grace is "God's unmerited favour to those who only deserve His wrath."

When we know how great our debt (that we couldn't pay) was to God, and that in Jesus' death and resurrection he has paid the penalty for us, when we know this **grace** of God we will no longer want to live ungodly lives.

### three types of decisions:

1. **Right/Wrong** – there are decisions that are clearly an issue of right or wrong. The Bible sets out a lot that is clearly black or white. If I was faced with the decision of shooting Chris Allan in the head with a gun, there are two options. Shoot or not shoot. If I chose to shoot Chris Allan it would clearly be a wrong thing, but if I chose to not shoot Chris Allan it would be a right thing (even though you may not like him!!). Likewise I have the choice to have sex outside of marriage if I do so desire. If I decide to have sex outside of marriage, this is wrong; but if I abstain from this practise; it is right.

2. **Wise/Unwise** – there are decisions that are not necessarily about right and wrong, but about wisdom. Often if you make a decision that is unwise it may lead to doing something that is clearly wrong.

Is it wise and godly for you to go to an under18s dance party? When you look at all the dodgy elements at a dance party they far outweigh the one or two good reasons to go. Along with the alcohol, drugs and excessively loud music, there is also the potential for fights and violence; and then there is the inappropriate clothing that females like to wear that is unhelpful for adolescent males. So wisdom would say that it would be best to stay away from these types of places. As Christians we will continue to see a world deeply entrenched in sin around us, but we shouldn't go out of our way to be part of it.

Another example would be who to marry... it is wrong to marry a non-Christian... but if they are a Christian and they are available to be married... it is not wrong... but it may not be wise... she may be 30 years older... he may live in France and you in Sydney... she may like the ballet and you hate the ballet... in each of these situations generally it is not wrong... but it may be wise not to pursue a relationship with someone in a foreign country or someone who is much older than you. It is not right or wrong... it is a matter of wisdom.

3. **Trivial** – many decisions that we make are trivial. In the grand scheme of things these decisions are neither here nor there. The important thing with these decisions is to just make them. A decision such as what colour I should paint my bedroom is trivial. Whether I choose to use Blue paint or Purple doesn't really matter (unless the purple paint costs \$10000 a litre – which in that case it would probably be wise to go with the blue paint for \$20 a litre!).