

SIX PRINCIPLES FOR GOD'S FAMILY TO LIVE BY

1 Cor. 6:12-8:13; 10:23-33

Introduction: Discuss daily choices, ways of life - reasons we do as we do, etc.
- God has certain principles He wants His Family to live by:

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF EXPEDIENCY

1. (1 Cor. 6:12) "Expediency" is to bring toward a destination.
2. Ask yourself: IS THIS LAWFUL? Does God say I should not do this thing?
3. Ask yourself: WILL THIS HELP OR HINDER ME IN DOING GOD'S WILL?

- Yogi Berra said" You have to be careful if you don't know where you're going cause you might get there and never know it.."
4. **Knowing God's will is critical - crucial in making right decisions.**

II. THE PRINCIPLE OF ENSLAVEMENT

1. (1 Cor. 6:12) "brought under the power" means to be enslaved.
2. Lost people, unbelievers are slaves to sin as you once were.
3. Believers have been set free from sin by Jesus yet still remain enslaved to some sin or sins. What are you a slave to?
- sex - drink - sports - smoking - work - appetite - t.v., etc...
4. God has set His family free from sin and its' entanglements...**live as God has made you - FREE... put aside those things that you remain enslaved to.**

III. THE PRINCIPLE OF EXAMPLE

1. (1 Cor. 8:8-13)
2. Food once offered to idols was then sold at a low price in the markets. Was it wrong to buy and eat that food?
3. Don't do anything to cause another Christian to stumble in his/her faith even if there is nothing spiritually wrong with it.
4. **How will others around you be affected by your behavior? Example?**
- speech - acts - attitudes - a drink, etc.

IV. THE PRINCIPLE OF EDIFICATION

1. (1 Cor. 10:23)
2. **Everything you do or say** either builds you up or tears you down spiritually.
- t.v. - "friends" - recreation - entertainment - work - etc..
3. **Everything you do or say** either brings you closer to God, the Father, or takes you farther away from Him. Do you need to make some changes?

V. THE PRINCIPLE OF EXALTATION

1. (1 Cor. 10:31)
2. **Everything you do or say** either honors or dishonors God.
- conversations - dress style - work - etc..
3. **Everything you do or say** reflects on God, our Father and His Family, the Church.
4. **From past behavior, have you exalted God and His Church with your life?**

VI. THE PRINCIPLE OF EVANGELISM

1. (1 Cor. 10:32-33)
2. Ask yourself this question: "WOULD WHAT I DO OR SAY KEEP SOMEONE FROM COMING TO KNOW JESUS?"
3. Everything you do and say should make someone want to know more about Jesus.
4. **Has your behavior driven someone away from Jesus or brought them nearer?**

CONCLUSION

1. Like it or not, know it or not, it is true! Both the saved and the lost world is watching us and our behavior.
2. Our Father has given us guidelines to live by that will bring Him honor and glory and that will lift up His only begotten Son, Jesus.
3. God's Family is on public display! That's YOU AND ME! What kind of example have we been setting in the eyes of those around us?
4. Let us commit ourselves to live by the principles God has given us to live by.