

SHOULD I DO IT ?

By Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"Finall

y brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Philippians 4: 8&9.

In this passage Paul admonishes those who know the Lord, to practice care in what they do. In past years believers have stood out for what they did and what they didn't. Many of today's believers are more apt to do that which is acceptable to the world rather than what is acceptable to God. To please the Lord you must obey His commands and follow His principles of right and wrong. Only a rebellious heart can miss the clear measuring points of what the believer should or should not do. Today I want to ask you eight simple questions and ask you to honestly measure what you are doing daily. **Is It Worldly?** In 1st. John 2: 15-17 one can see the three areas of worldliness. First, the lust of the flesh. If it stirs your flesh to evil thinking and acceptance of evil acts it is surely wrong. May I ask how much time do you spend watching TV where every manner of fleshly lust is paraded? By word and exposure you are subjected to that which arouses fleshly thinking. Many Bible verses warn not to even look at evil. Very few programs do not display sex in attire, words of profanity and excesses of sinful living. Christ honoring families must avoid the daily pollution be it written in books or available on the "boob tube." Secondly, television also majors in the lust of the eye. A desire to look at portrayed evil should remind you that you still have an old nature. *"As a man thinketh in his*

heart so is he," Prov. 23:7. To bathe your children in such profane filth is a sin of great penalty. You will whimper through their teen life problems many which you kindled through a lack of viewing control. Thirdly, reference is made to the pride of life. A difference required by God's Word wounds our pride when there are things we should not do. We are not to seek acceptance by the world but live pleasing to Christ. Don't worry about appearing to be like a cult but rather care only to please our commander, Jesus Christ. Saved people are new creatures who seek not the ruining forces of the enemy. Sadly, you can judge your love for Christ by your love for the world. Now let's ask the question, **Could Christ Be Partner?** In Matthew 28: 20 we are told, *"Lo I am with you always."* Now stop and think! There is never a time He does not know our thoughts and actions for He is with us. You have no silent spot where you alone can meditate on evil. There is no indifferent hiding possible from His presence. You cannot tuck away a book or picture without Him observing the action. You cannot in secret detour down a path of evil but He is watching and judgment will follow. The theological word is omnipresence and God is always by the side of His child. Many teens are careful what they do around their parents but forget their heavenly father is always there. Now ask yourself, **Does It Appear Evil?** 1 Thess. 5:22 commands, *"Abstain from the appearance of evil."* Not only does the Bible list many things for the believer not to do, but we are not to pattern after the looks and actions of sinners. A Godly woman should dress like an obedient woman and not follow the sexy styles of today's lustful women. The crowd you like and their sinful choices you follow can greatly injure your testimony. How can you say, Jesus saves and keeps and satisfies when you crave worldliness to please self. Where you go and with whom you hang around is vital to your testimony. You cannot run with a skunk and smell like a rose. How is your appearance before the Lord. That is most important. Next

ask yourself, **Does It Honor God?** I Cor. 10: 31 states *"Whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God."* How we spend our time, where we go and our daily actions all must face the scrutiny of this command. You can honor God by majoring in all that is right and refusing all that is wrong. Years ago there was a fad to wear a bracelet stating, What would Jesus do? It raised a good Biblical question but has since fallen from popularity. Yet the Biblical truth is clearly seen. Whatever we do should bring honor and glory to God! Fourthly, we should ask ourselves, **Will It Cause Stumbling?** Romans 14:13 urges, *"Let no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brothers way."* Not only do we believers live under constant observation by the sinner crowd but our fellow believers as well. We are to be so loving that we injure no one by our words and actions. First think about words. We can be so strong willed and critical often toward the saints around us. Be careful little mouth what you say. Gossip and hurt feelings expressed to others will always hurt the unity of the church. Honesty is vital, a diligent testimony crucial and a willingness to be wronged rather than hurting others. This is where they say the rubber meets the road. Believers must stand together with nothing allowed to hurt the corporate church. Think before you speak and consider before you act. Then lets ask **How Would Believers Advise?** Proverbs 11:14 promises *"In a multitude of counselors there is safety."* Pride so often keeps us from seeking help from others. Learn to lovingly seek the counsel of Godly people around you especially the pastor. Deacons and trustees have been chosen for their wisdom over the years to be a helpful measuring stick in the church. Dear teen instead of grumbling about older folks, learn they have faced what bugs you years before. It's best to consult before you confront. The strength and vitality of our church are paramount to its longevity and effectiveness. Now what about asking **Is There Any Doubt?** Romans 14:23 warns, *"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin."* Stop

and think through the decisions you are pondering. Question your moves and decisions before you make them. What will be the result of running with the wrong teens? Will this help or hinder your marriage and the happiness of your home. Will it be a good example to your kids who are developing their lives after parent actions? Would that be a good date or a party that tempts not. Dear one please think before you sink. Measure your actions and the probable results of the decisions you make and the full scope of all you do. Lastly, **Does It Grieve the Holy Spirit.** Eph 4:30, *"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God ,whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."* We have an inward living friend who wants to stand by our side and is pleased in every decision which is right in the eyes of God. He knows how we use our time, reads our every thought constantly seeking to lead us to be like Christ. Never shut him out of your daily decisions but seek to please Him in all you do. We would do well to obey the words of Paul and if it seems too hard to do, memorize Philippians 4:13. *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* God promises to give you strength to avoid evil and make right decisions. Once again here is the measuring stick of right and wrong.

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- (1). Is it worldly?.....I John 2:15-17.
 - (2). Could Christ be partner?.. Matt. 28:20.
 - (3). Does it appear evil?...I Thess. 5:22.
 - (4). Will it cause stumbling?...Rom. 14:13.
 - (5). How would believers advise? Prov. 11:14
 - (6). Does it grieve the Spirit?...Eph. 4:30.
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Please memorize these simple rules which are all backed by Bible principles. Please teach them to your children. Please drill them into your teens. They will help you fathers to lead the family in victorious living.