

Ephesians 5:17 (ESV)

“Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Knowing and Doing God’s Will: The Dilemmas
Romans 14:1-8

Romans 14:1-8 (ESV)

“As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

4 Questions to Ask:

I. Will it help or Hinder my Spiritual Growth?

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV)

"Everything is permissible for me" — but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me" — but I will not be mastered by anything.

1 Corinthians 10:23 (ESV)

“All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up.

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

II. Will it bring me into Spiritual Bondage?

1 Corinthians 6:12-15 (NIV)

"Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything. "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"—but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?

III. Will it Cause me to Make others Stumble?

Romans 14:13-22 (NIV)

“Make up your mind not to put any stumbling-block or obstacle in your brother’s way. If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ...it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.”

IV. Will it Help me Become More like Christ?

1 John 2:5-6 (ESV)

“By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”