

PROACTIVE PRINCIPLES

Fully Convinced in Your Own Mind - Rom. 14:5

When the Bible does not specifically address a topic, you must be guided by your personal convictions. **No one can give you their convictions.** You will be required to develop your own. There are many gray areas and slippery slopes with this process because personal convictions will differ from person to person. The prerequisite required by Romans 14:5 is that you are “**fully convinced in your own mind**” so that your motives are pleasing to the Lord and not just acceptable behavior.

Examples Of The Many Personal Convictions Regarding Alcohol

Check those that apply to you.

- _____ God isn't against having fun. If I drink too much, there's forgiveness.
- _____ I can drink, but shouldn't get drunk.
- _____ I only drink at a business lunch because declining might cost me a contract.
- _____ I can drink wine, but avoid all other alcoholic options.
- _____ I do not drink, but am comfortable being with those who do.
- _____ I do not drink or socialize with people who do.
- _____ I will not go to any restaurant, party or family event that serves alcohol.
- _____ I will adjust my behavior when my high-principled grandfather is visiting.
- _____ I will adjust my behavior when my 12-old-nephew is visiting.

I. The Pondering Process

Prov. 4:26 KJV, Amp, NIV

Ponder the path of your feet and let all your ways be established. Prov. 4:26 KJV

Consider well and watch carefully the path of your feet... Prov. 4:26 Amp.

Give careful thought to the paths of your feet....” Prov. 4:26 NI

Ps. 119:59 - I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies. I made haste and did not delay.

Ecc. 12:1 - Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come.

II. Why Ponder?

- Because your choices have _____
- Because people who believe in you are praying
- Because people who need the Lord are _____
- Because one moment of temporary pleasure can cause a life of sorrow and shame.
- Because one strong conviction can give God great glory.

III. Your First Question

- _____ am I living for? _____ am I living for?
- Unanswered questions in your life will affect:
 1. Your relationship with the Lord
 2. Your relationship with your family
 3. Your Christian witness
 4. Your health
 5. Your finances
- Until you are "*fully convinced in your own mind*," live by "*When in doubt, don't*."

IV. The Real Question

The real question is not whether something is right or wrong, but how brightly do you want to shine for the Lord?

S - Search *the Scriptures to see if there is any direct teaching on the subject.* Jn. 5:39

H - Hero -- *How does your spiritual hero feel about this?* Heb. 13:7

I - Inspire -- *Will this activity inspire others to live wholeheartedly for the Lord?* II Tim. 2:20-22

N - Never -- *Never exchange a short-term pleasure for a long-term goal.*

E - Expect -- *Expect God's blessing for setting a high standard. (But, expect scoffers, too.)*

Circle One:

40 Watt

60 Watt

75 Watt

100 Watt

150 Watt Floodlight

"Let your light (personal convictions) so shine before men that they might see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matt. 5:16

Still Not Sure?

- When in doubt, don't.
- If it has permanent or long-term ramifications, wait until you mature.
- Seek counsel from a godly person who is 10+ older than you.
- Until you have your own personal convictions, adopt those of your spiritual role model.
- Do what Jesus did. Pray "*Lord, not my will, but Thy will be done.*"
- You'll never regret keeping your standard high.

Ten Questions To Ponder

1. Will this practice _____ God? (*1 Cor. 10:31*)
2. Does this practice have _____ or permanent ramifications?
3. Will it cause a weaker brother to _____? (*Rom. 14:21*)
4. Does it display good _____ of my time, gifts and money? (*1 Cor. 4:2*)
5. Will it bring _____ or _____ to your physical body; the temple of the Holy Spirit? (*1 Cor 6:19-20*)
6. How will you feel if your _____ or _____ hear about this?
7. How will you feel if it goes _____ on social media?
8. In 15 years, how will you feel if your _____ or _____ asks to do the same thing?
9. Are you being _____? (*Ph. 2:3*)
10. Will it cause _____ or _____ among your godly relationships? (*Rom. 14:19*)

Answers: II.1.consequences II.3.watching III.1.what,who

1. glorify
2. long-term
3. stumble
4. stewardship
5. health or harm
6. parents or pastor
7. viral
8. son or daughter
9. selfish
10. strife or peace