

Principles of Righteousness #2

Introduction:

- A. Last Lord's day morning we began a study of how we might determine whether a particular action is or is not acceptable before the Lord.
- B. We considered that God reveals His will on the basis of principles, which, when understood and applied, will show us what pleases Him.
- C. We continue by considering 6 more principles which will distinguish between good and evil.

I. Principle #3: *Does it have a weakening influence on others, and will it become a stumbling block to them?*

- A. The principle is that we cannot engage in anything which would lead others to commit sin.
- B. 1 Cor.10:23-11:1– Paul shows it would be wrong for us to do something which would cause another to stumble.
 - 1. Consider also Phil.2:3,4 & 1 Cor.8.
 - 2. 1 Cor.8:13– The Christian should have the attitude, *“if meat causeth my brother to stumble, I will eat no flesh for evermore, that I cause not by brother to stumble.”*
- C. We should check to see if the activity will cause another to sin.

II. Principle #4: *Is it destructive to your body?*

- A. The principle is we cannot do anything which will harm our bodies.
- B. 1 Cor.6:19,20; Rom.14:7,8– As Christians, our bodies belong to the Lord.
- C. 1 Cor.3:16,17; 1 Thess.5:23– We thus cannot be destructive to our bodies.
- D. Smoking, illegal drug use, drinking would all be wrong from the standpoint that it destroys our bodies.

III. Principle #5: *Does it conflict with your duty as a Christian?*

- A. The principle is we must not engage in any activity which will not allow us to put the Lord first.
- B. Matt.6:33; 2 Tim.2:3,4; cf.Col.3:1,2– The Lord must always come first in our lives.
- C. Any activity which will keep us from giving our all to the Lord is an activity the Christian should not participate in.

IV. Principle #6: *Does it create an inordinate fleshly appetite?*

- A. The principle is we cannot engage in any activity which will cultivate an excessive appetite for things of this world.
- B. Col.3:2-6; Titus 2:11-13– The focus of our heart should be on the Lord above.
- C. Any activity which would cause us to put our every thought on satisfying our earthly desires is sin.

V. Principle #7: *Will it bring you under weakening association and influence?*

- A. The principle is we must not engage in any activity which places us under the evil influence of others.
- B. 1 Cor.15:33; 1 Thess.5:21,22– We should be careful who we choose to associate with.

VI. Principle #8: *Does it bring upon you an unequal yoke and place you at a disadvantage in serving the Lord?*

- A. The principle is we must not form any relationship with anyone who cares nothing about the Lord.
- B. 2 Cor.6:14– *“Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers.”*

Let us learn these principles so all our actions will be acceptable before the Lord.