

Gray Areas—The Non-Moral Issues

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I. Introduction.

- A. There are many debates about unclear moral areas in the church today.
- B. There are ten key questions to determine whether something should or should not be done.

II. Will it be spiritually profitable? (I Corinthians 6:12)

- A. We want to do things that will benefit us.
- B. This is the principle of expedience.

III. Will it build me up spiritually? (I Corinthians 10:23, 14:26, II Corinthians 12:19, I Corinthians 9:24)

IV. Will it slow me down in the race? (Hebrews 12:1)

V. Will it bring me into bondage (is it habit forming)? (I Corinthians 6:12)

VI. Will it hypocritically cover my sin? (I Peter 2:16)

- A. One should not use his freedom to cover his sin.
- B. This is justification to do evil.
- C. One does not want to turn liberty into license. (Galatians 5:13)

VII. Will it violate the Lordship of Christ? (Romans 14)

- A. God works through the conscience and it is not good to violate it.
- B. The man with a weak conscience should be let alone so long as he is doing it for Christ in most cases.
- C. This is the principle of encroachment.
- D. One should not train himself to violate his own conscience.

VIII. Will it help other Christians by its example? (Romans 14:13, 15, 20, 21)

IX. Will it lead others to Christ? (Romans 16)

A. The most attractive thing about the church is its love.

B. If we are not sensitive, we will fail to demonstrate Christ. (I Corinthians 14)

C. This is the principle of evangelism.

X. Will it be consistent with Christ's likeness? This is the principle of emulation. (I John 2:6)

XI. Will it glorify God? The principle of exaltation. (I Corinthians 10:31)

Application questions:

1. Which question did you find most valuable for making decisions in gray areas?

2. Why is it important to protect the conscience of a weak believer over that of a nonbeliever?

3. What experience do you have in dealing with gray areas? What have you learned from it?
