

# *Victory Christian Center of Hollywood*

*A Church appointed to Advance the Kingdom of God! December 2, 2012 Pastor MC sermon Notes*

**What is Right and what is wrong? Do we know the difference?**

**What do we do about the impact of choices, consequences, confusion, and questionable ethical behavior?**

**The Book of Proverbs: Read the entire book**

*The book of Proverbs was given to us to teach us right conduct.” To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, equity [or, doing what is right, just, and fair, NIV]; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion—a wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel . . . . The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” ([Prov 1:2-5](#), [7](#), NKJV).*

Know this: When we do not know the difference between right and wrong-Confusion, dire consequences, Choices, and questionable ethics are operating at the highest level of the enemy's stronghold.

At the same time, we must look closely at other factors as well: Right & Wrong-what does all of this mean? For example,

1. Choices: an act of selecting or making a decision when faced with two or more possibilities. *the choice between good and evil*

[Matthew 7:13-14](#)

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

[Proverbs 14:12](#) ESV / 325 helpful votes

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death

[Isaiah 30:21](#) ESV / 207 helpful votes **Helpful Not Helpful**

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

**2. Consequences The consequences of sin - What are they?**

Consequence refers to a result or effect of an action or condition; an outcome-a conclusion of a matter.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" ([Romans 6:23](#)). Sin is that which is opposed to God. It is rebellion against God's rule and results in separation from Him.

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Because God is life (He is the only eternally existent Being and therefore contains existence within Himself; see John 8:58; 14:16; and Exodus 3:14), the result of sin is lack of life – or death. Without Jesus, sin results in eternal death. However, sin has consequences beyond an eternity in hell.

Those who have been saved in Christ are given eternal life (1 John 5:11-12), and this life begins now. The Christian is not merely given a ticket to heaven but is ushered into fullness of life (John 10:10). While on earth, we experience the true abundance of our lives in Christ only in part; the Christian life is a foretaste of what is to come (1 Corinthians 13:12). But, it is still a taste. There is still the experience of true life. Sin disrupts this. Even for a believer, sin results in symptoms of spiritual death.

Though believers in Christ have been forgiven of their sins (2 Corinthians 5:21), they are still undergoing a process of sanctification. This means that we are forgiven and justified before God, yet still in the process of being made completely new in Christ.

Though we are declared righteous, we do not always act righteously. Therefore, our sin still has an effect. Much like a parent still loves a disobedient child, God still loves us when we sin.

If we have been saved, our sin does not threaten the security of our salvation. In fact, our salvation does not hinge on our righteousness; it is founded on the righteousness of Jesus. We were dead in our sins and totally unable to save ourselves; it was God's love for us that resulted in salvation (Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:13; Ephesians 2:1-5).

As believers we do not experience separation from God when we sin; however, we do experience a break in our relationship with Him. There is tension in our communion with Him. As a result, we may experience confusion, loneliness, guilt, purposelessness, or the like.

This is what spiritual death feels like. For believers, this is not a permanent state. But it is a consequence of unconfessed sin.

Sin also carries certain natural consequences with it. God's rule is designed to be for our good. He created us and knows us intimately. He knows what is good for us and what is not. He does not create rules or give commands simply so that we will obey Him.

God does not need to engage in a power struggle for the sake of His ego. He knows He is in control and His rule is loving. This means that our rebellion against God is really rebellion against what is best for us.

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A parent knows that too much sugar will result in health problems for his child, and that a lack of sleep will result in crankiness. The parent does not limit candy or impose bed time just to control the child, but for the child's benefit. When the child disobeys, he or she suffers the natural consequences of engaging in destructive behavior.

Sometimes sin also leads to the consequences imposed on us by society. Certain sins are illegal. When we are caught committing these sins, even if we repent and are restored to the experience of full life in God, we may suffer legal consequences.

For believers, sin does not result in ultimate death. Our salvation is secure in Christ. We need not be "re-saved" when we sin. However, our sin does have consequences. When we sin we hurt both ourselves and God. We need to confess our sins, repent of our behaviors, and seek restoration with God. He promises to forgive (1 John 1:9; James 5:15-16).

**3. Ethics refers to a set of principles of right conduct; Your actions: Moral principles that govern a person's or group's behavior. The moral correctness of specified conduct; dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation**

## **Ethics are from God.**

**When we talk about discerning right from wrong, we are dealing with the subject of ethics. Ethics is the study of the good; the study of right and wrong actions and attitudes. In simple terms, ethics is the study of how to relate to God, others, and ourselves.**

**Ethics govern the creature's relationship toward God, they govern the creature's relationship to fellow creatures, and they govern the creature's relationship to the creation itself.**

**The study of good behavior, motivation, and attitude in light of Jesus Christ and biblical revelation. The discipline of ethics deals with such questions as: "What ought I do?" "How should I act so as to do what is good and right?" "What is meant by good?" "Who is the good person?"**

**Biblical ethics likewise addresses some of the identical questions. While neither Testament has an abstract, comprehensive term or definition which parallels the modern term "ethics," both the Old Testament and the New Testament are concerned about the manner of life that the Scripture prescribes and approves.**

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The closest Hebrew term in the Old Testament for “ethics,” “virtue” or “ideals” is the word *musar*, “discipline” or “teaching” ([Proverbs 1:8](#)) or even *derek*, “way or path” of the good and the right. The closest parallel Greek term in the New Testament is *anastrophe*, “way of life, life-style” (occurring nine times in a good sense with [2 Peter 3:11](#) being the most significant usage). Of course the Greek terms *ethos* or *ethos* appear twelve times in the New Testament ( [Luke 1:9](#); [Luke 2:42](#); [Luke 22:39](#); [John 19:40](#); [Acts 6:14](#); [Acts 15:1](#); [Acts 16:21](#); [Acts 21:21](#); [Acts 25:16](#); [Acts 26:3](#); [Acts 28:17](#) and [Hebrews 10:25](#) ). The plural form appears once in [1 Corinthians 15:33](#) . It is usually translated “conduct,” “custom,” “manner of life,” or “practice.”

## 4. Confusion What is confusion?

Clearly confusion is lack of understanding; uncertainty; unsure of a situation of panic; a breakdown of order: Being unable to think with clarity or act with understanding and intelligence. Lacking logical order or sense: Chaotic; jumbled: an inability to understand; bewildered; perplexed; in a disordered state; mixed up; jumbled; lacking sufficient mental abilities for independent living-sometimes this could happen in young and old age stages:

(a) Why is . Confusion in the Land: Why? Too many Believers are confused because of the “lack of knowledge” of God’s word-no time or very little time in reading the bible.

(b) The Believers are listening to-too many voices in the land; but not the voice of the Holy Spirit.

(c) Some Believers and Leaders in the Church are acting, and thinking like the world instead of acting to please God. Examples: There have been pastors who have impregnated women in their church; as well as, some pastors have admitted to practicing a life style of homosexuality that have brought shame and disgrace on the Church.

(d) The failure to make a godly decision to obey God’s word-meditate and pray on a daily basis have been a contributing factor in allowing confusion in.

(e) Confusion comes when we stop seeking to please God-obeying Him at all cost and working to advance His Kingdom. This should be our #1 top priority.

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(f) Confusion sets in: As a result, people do not know what is right, and what is wrong. Some are making ungodly decisions living in direct disobedience and rebellion against God.

(g) In the end, we know, every action, deed and word that has been in opposition to God's word-to God's ways of doing things will have dire consequences at that "Great Day."

## Part II. Right and Wrong-what do we need to know? Pg 6

II. What is RIGHT? Right refers to Morally good, justified, or acceptable; correct - proper - just - true - straight - fit – fair' straight - directly - just - rightly – exactly

IV. What is Wrong? Wrong refers to an unjust, dishonest, or immoral action; injustice - harm - fault - evil - error – iniquity; injure - harm

The foundational ethic to all others is the command to glorify God.

Vine's Expository Dictionary describes the command to glorify God in the following manner: In the New Testament "to glorify" is to extol, praise, and honor God by acknowledging Him as to His being, attributes and acts.

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" ([1 Cor 10:31, NKJV](#)).

*How can we glorify God?*

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" ([Heb 11:6, NIV](#)).

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you@ ([Matt 6:33, NKJV](#)).

God's glory is the revelation and self-manifestation of all that is His. Believers glorify God by bearing much fruit ([Jn 15:8](#)). To live for God's glory is only possible when we seek to imitate Him in holiness, honor and righteousness ([Eph 5:1](#)).

A Choice/A decision is to be made:

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## ***What Does the Bible Say About Decision Making?***

The Bible is especially designed to help us make the *most* important decision, the decision to repent, change and follow Jesus Christ for the rest of our lives (Acts 2:38; 1 John 2:6). God tells us to put Him first, to obey Him and thus choose eternal life and blessings (Matthew 6:33; Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

All other decisions in life should contribute toward that ultimate decision and goal. We must avoid decisions that will detract from putting God and His righteousness first in our life.

But not every decision is a choice of good versus evil. Many of our daily decisions have multiple acceptable options. Some of our biggest decisions also have a variety of possible choices, like what career to pursue, who to marry and where to live. Thankfully the Bible also gives us principles that can help us identify and choose the best options. Let's explore biblical wisdom to find some of those keys.

What is the starting point in finding wisdom?

**Proverbs 1:7**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Proverbs 2:2-6**

So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding...

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

When we understand how great God is and see how small we are, we will grow in a proper reverence and fear of God. That leads us to ask for His guidance and to study His Bible to grow not just in knowledge but in understanding of the principles behind those facts. Meditating on and applying that biblical knowledge and understanding with God's Spirit leads to godly wisdom.

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**So we seek wisdom when we fear God, pray for His help and study His Bible to find principles that apply to the decisions we face.**

**How else does the Bible tell us to seek wisdom?**

**Proverbs 11:14**

**Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.**

**Trusted experts and wise individuals can be a good source of advice. Other people may see our problem from a different angle than we would, allowing them to provide possible solutions we might not see.**

**How should we approach defining and understanding the problem—the decision we face?**

**Proverbs 22:3**

**A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.**

**Proverbs 18:13**

**He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.**

**John 7:24**

**"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."**

**A wise person carefully looks ahead to the end, trying to foresee the likely long-term consequences, before making a decision to plunge ahead.**

**For an important decision, we must invest the time to get the facts, to examine the situation more than superficially and to clearly define the problem. When we are able to accurately state the problem or opportunity, we will be able to see the shape of the ideal solution more clearly.**

**But determining how to get to that ideal solution can still be challenging. Brainstorm for possible options and include the advice of the counselors you are consulting.**

**So we end this phase of decision making with a clearly stated problem and a list of possible solutions to choose from.**

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**How should we make our decision?**

**Deuteronomy 30:19**

**"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live..."**

**Luke 14:28-30**

**"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'"**

**If a possible solution requires disobeying a biblical principle, delete that option from your list. Then compare the remaining options with positive biblical principles, wise advice from others, the likelihood of success and the effects your decision will have on others. Carefully weigh the pros and cons and "count the cost."**

**Bottom line: Make a decision to do good-think good-act good: But in the end pray for wisdom-knowing what to do -when to do it-how to do it and who to do it with and the courage to do it God's way.**

- 1. Good choice= Good consequences**
- 2. Bad Choice= Bad consequences**

**The path of life and the path of destruction are set before us.**

**Because God is Creator and sovereign Ruler of all creation, moral law is built into the very fabric of the universe. As the only creature made in the image of God, every action man takes is either an affirmation or denial of God's moral government. These two moral directions are described in Scripture as two paths—one of life, and the other of destruction ([Jer 6:16-19](#); [Matt 7:13](#)).**

**Garden of Eden: 2 Directions-One of life: The other is destruction**

- (a) 2 Trees**
- (b) Heaven or hell**
- (c) God's way and all others**
- (d) Saved or lost**
- (e) Life or death**
- (f) Good and bad**
- (g) Light & Darkness**
- (h) Truth & Falsehood**

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- From the Garden of Eden with its two trees (one allowed, one forbidden) to the eternal destiny of the human being in heaven or in hell, the Bible sets forth two, and only two, ways: God's way, and all others.
- Accordingly, people are said to be saved or lost. They belong to God's people or the world. There was Gerizim, the mount of blessing, and Ebal, the mount of cursing. There is the narrow way and the wide way, leading either to eternal life or to destruction.
- There are those who are against us and those who are with us, those within and those without. There is life and death, truth and falsehood, good and bad, light and darkness, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan, love and hatred, spiritual wisdom and the wisdom of the world.
- Christ is said to be the way, the truth, and the life, and no one may come to the Father but by Him. His is the only name under the sky by which one may be saved.<sup>1[1]</sup>

### **Jesus clearly taught this idea of two ways in His famous Sermon on the Mount:**

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult [or, confined, constraining] is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” ([Matt 7:13-14, NKJV](#)).

All of us are either on the narrow way that leads to life, or we are on the broad way that leads to death. There is no other alternative. There is no gray area. There is no neutral ground to stand upon.

These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise.

<sup>3</sup> Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair.

<sup>4</sup> These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young.

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**<sup>5</sup> Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance <sup>6</sup> by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles.<sup>7</sup> Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Proverbs 1:1-7**

**<sup>14</sup> But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. II Cor. 11:14**

**I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. <sup>10</sup> For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. Phil 1:9-10**

**In the end the message is clear for Victory: Stay close to God by reading, meditating on His word, become a committed "Doer" of His word; make a choice to obey His word daily; and learning each and every day how to please God- In all that You do. "Just do it!"**

**Let's Pray**

**Heavenly Father,**

**I enter into Your gates with Thanksgiving and enter Your courts with Praise. I bless Your Holy Name-Jesus. Thank You for giving me life and life more abundantly. Thank You for going to the Cross in my place. You did that because You love me so much and for that I say "Thank You, Lord."**

**Now my life is dedicating to obeying and pleasing You. Please forgive me-I repent for sometimes losing my way.**

**Help me Holy Spirit to keep away the sin of confusion, making wrong choices, and unethical behavior, which can lead to painful consequences in my life and in my love one's life.**

**Help me Holy Spirit to listen to You-to obey You at all cost. You are my Teacher, My Aid, My Senior partner, and my comforter. I believe with Your power and presence- I can do all things through Christ who strengthen me.**

**I believe in the impossible. As I walk in faith, power and victory, I believe something good is going to happen.**

**Thank You Lord for teaching me Right from Wrong-for teaching me to do what is right even when no one is looking-to speak up and tell the "Truth." Thank You-Lord in Jesus name. Amen**