

How to Make a Moral Decision

“Morality” = personal decisions about [right and wrong](#).

Three pertinent questions that will help us understand the decision process.

- **Question #1: DO CHRISTIANS HAVE AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE FOR MORAL QUESTIONS?** And the answer is [“yes.”](#)

- [God’s Word](#) is our authoritative source for all moral choices.

What supports this conclusion?

- The [Old Testament](#).

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (New International Version)

If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done? Proverbs 24:12 (NIV)

- The example of [Jesus](#). (See Mark 7:8 and Mark 7:24)

“You put aside God’s command and obey human teachings.”⁹ And Jesus continued, “You have a clever way of rejecting God’s law in order to uphold your own teaching. ¹⁰For Moses commanded, ‘Respect your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever curses his father or his mother is to be put to death.’ ¹¹But you teach that if a person has something he could use to help his father or mother, but says, ‘This is Corban’ (which means, it belongs to God), ¹²he is excused from helping his father or mother. ¹³In this way the teaching you pass on to others cancels out the word of God . . .” Mark 7:8-13 (Good News Bible)

- The [New Testament](#).

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

- *“sola scriptura”* = Latin = “Scripture alone”

- **Question #2: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SECULAR MORALITY AND SACRED MORALITY?** The answer is [“no.”](#)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Philippians 1:27a (New Living Translation)

I urge you, then . . . live a life that measures up to the standard God set when he called you. Ephesians 4:1 (GNB)

Morality is about our entire way of life, because for believers there is no distinction between sacred or secular!

- **Question #3: WHAT SPECIFICS SHOULD BELIEVERS KEEP IN MIND WHEN MAKING A MORAL CHOICE?** The answer is [three specifics](#) will help you make your decision.

- First, consider biblical [commands](#).

Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5:3 (NLT)

Commands tell believers [directly and concretely](#) what to do and what not to do. Examples: James 3:9-10 and Ephesians 4:29

- Second, consider biblical [principles](#).

Principles are [general expressions](#) of moral truth. Examples: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:39 (NIV) (See Phil 2:4)

- Third, consider Godly [counsel](#).

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom . . . Colossians 3:16 (NIV) (See Proverbs 13:10b; 27:9)

⁹ *With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.* ¹⁰ *Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.* James 3:9-10 (NIV)

²⁹ *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.* Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

. . . Wisdom is found in those who take advice. Proverbs 13:10 (NIV)

The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense. Proverbs 27:9 (NLT)