

# The Corinthian Grid

Guidelines for Discernment in Holiness



Pick one gray area you are dealing with in your life right now. Based on *your own opinions*, is it okay to do this:

Never

Depends

Always

Edification: 1 Corinthians 6:12, Galatians 6:8

Principle: Do things that profit my relationship with Christ.

Application: Will I grow in godliness and intimacy with Christ B/C of this?

Entanglement: 1 Corinthians 6:18, 9:24, Hebrews 12:1

Principle: Do not allow anything to slow you down or tempt you.

Application: Does this slow me down in the race or tempt me to sin?

Enslavement: 1 Corinthians 6:12

Principle: Do not allow yourself to be mastered by anything but Christ.

Application: Could this master me or get me in its control?

Emmulation: 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 John 2:6

Principle: Do things that would be consistent with Jesus' heart and life.

Application: Would Jesus do this? Is this activity Christ-like?

Example: 1 Corinthians 8:9-13, Mark 9:42

Principle: Do not cause others to stumble with my choices.

Application: Does this strengthen or cause others to stumble?

Evangelism: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Principle: Do all things for the sake of reaching others for Christ.

Application: Does this help or hinder me in reaching others for Christ?

Exaltation: 1 Corinthians 10:31

Principle: Do everything for the Glory of God.

Application: Does this lift up, honor and show off God?

## Four H's of 1 Corinthians

1. Is it **helpful**, beneficial, or constructive for me? Does it cause me to grow spiritually or help others grow? (6:12a; 10:23)
2. Is it a **habit**? Is it an addictive behavior? Does it hold me in its power? Do I feel I need this to be happy and fulfilled? Does it control my thoughts or actions? (6:12b)
3. Is it **hurtful** for another? A weaker Christian? In doing it, would I hurt someone else or cause them to be tempted to go against their conscience (what they think is right)? Is it hurtful for a non-Christian? Could my behavior cause a non-Christian to ignore the gospel or disregard Christ? (8:13; 10:24-11:1)
4. Is it **honoring** to God? Glorifying God means to exalt God, to please Him by seeking his interests above our own interests. In doing it, would I bring glory to God, or dishonor him? (10:31)

# The Corinthian Grid (Leader's Guide)

7 Guidelines for Discernment in Holiness

**What are some things you have observed other people do or have done yourself that you've questioned whether it's OK to participate in?**

## Gray Areas

*Examples:* Drinking alcohol, smoking, pre-marital sex, dating a non-Christian, unhealthy dieting, watching questionable movies (rated R)/TV shows, gambling, physical intimacy (no sex), going to clubs/bars, using a fake ID, living with a member of the opposite sex, cheating, dressing provocatively, swearing, magazines (SI swimsuit issue)

Pick one gray area you are dealing with in your life right now. Based on *your own opinions*, is it okay to do this:

Never

Depends

Always

**Take the gray area through the Corinthian Grid. Look up the first verse. They can look up the other verses on their own. Answer the questions as you go.**

Edification: 1 Corinthians 6:12, Galatians 6:8

Principle: Do things that profit my relationship with Christ.

Application: Will I grow in godliness and intimacy with Christ b/c of this?

Entanglement: 1 Corinthians 6:18, 9:24, Hebrews 12:1

Principle: Do not allow anything to slow you down or tempt you.

Application: Does this slow me down in the race or tempt me to sin?

Enslavement: 1 Corinthians 6:12

Principle: Do not allow yourself to be mastered by anything but Christ.

Application: Could this master me or get me in its control?

Emmulation: 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 John 2:6

Principle: Do things that would be consistent with Jesus' heart and life.

Application: Would Jesus do this? Is this activity Christ-like?

Example: 1 Corinthians 8:9-13, Mark 9:42

Principle: Do not cause others to stumble with my choices.

Application: Does this strengthen or cause others to stumble?

Evangelism: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Principle: Do all things for the sake of reaching others for Christ.

Application: Does this help or hinder me in reaching others for Christ?

Exaltation: 1 Corinthians 10:31

Principle: Do everything for the Glory of God.

Application: Does this lift up, honor and show off God?

## Four H's of 1 Corinthians

Helpful questions to ask when faced with a gray area:

1. Is it **helpful**, beneficial, or constructive for me? Does it cause me to grow spiritually or help others grow? (6:12a; 10:23)
2. Is it a **habit**? Is it an addictive behavior? Does it hold me in its power? Do I feel I need this to be happy and fulfilled? Does it control my thoughts or actions? (6:12b)
3. Is it **hurtful** for another? A weaker Christian? In doing it, would I hurt someone else or cause them to be tempted to go against their conscience (what they think is right)? Is it hurtful for a non-Christian? Could my behavior cause a non-Christian to ignore the gospel or disregard Christ? (8:13; 10:24-11:1)
4. Is it **honoring** to God? Glorifying God means to exalt God, to please Him by seeking his interests above our own interests. In doing it, would I bring glory to God, or dishonor him? (10:31)