

9. What would the consequences of your decision be? In other words what effect would it have on your life?

What long and short term consequences would you have to face for your decision? Remember that God will forgive sin and poor judgment if we repent, but you may have to live with the results of your decision for the rest of your life.

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” Gal 6:7

10. Would it edify you? Would it make you a better person?

Would your decision bring you closer to God or push you farther away? Will it build you up or will it tear you down? Be honest.

“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.” 1 Cor 10:23

11. Would your decision serve the right master?

Will your decision require you to obey the demands of someone or something other than Christ and the teachings of the Coptic Orthodox Church?

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.” Mt 6:24

12. Have you asked advice from your Spiritual Father about it?

You should ask the advice of your Spiritual Father who is acquainted with you and has wisdom and is experienced in helping people make decisions that please God and keep inline with Coptic Orthodox teaching and life.

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” Prov 11:14

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly.” Psalm 1:1

13. Have you prayed about your decision?

The Lord promises to guide us and give us direction in our lives. Did you consult the Lord in your prayers? Did you pray the prayer of “Seeking God’s will” that is found in the Agpeya?

“Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” Phil 4:6

“I will instruct you and teach you... I will guide you with my eye” Psalm 32:8

“There is a way that seems right to a man but its end is the way of death.” Prov 14:12

“I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.” Jn 8:12

“When He, the Spirit of Truth has come He will guide you into all truth.” Jn 16:13

“In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.” Prov 3:6



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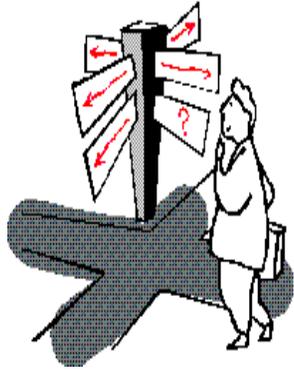
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HOW CAN I MAKE
**GODLY
CHOICES?**



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Life is filled with many choices that must be made. Some of these choices are very easy to make and some are very difficult. Some are clear and can be made without any hesitation, yet others are not so clear and can be a great source of stress

and worry. What makes a choice a Godly one? And how can you make a Godly choice? Let's first consider what the Holy Bible says.

Psalm 119:105 states:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

God's Word is your guide for making Godly and correct choices in your life. Before you make a choice, you need to compare your desire to what God's Holy Word says and then consider the following questions.



1. Would you be able to ask God to bless it?

Would your decision be something that you can take before God with a good conscience and ask him to bless it? Or is it something that you know the Lord would not be enthusiastic about?

“The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.” Prov 10:22

2. Could you thank Him for it?

Would your decision be something that you can openly thank God for? Or would it be something which would seem inappropriate to thank Him for?

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Col 3:17

3. Would your decision be to God's Glory?

Would your decision be something that can bring Glory and honor to the Lord?

“...whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Cor 10:31

4. Would your decision be of the world?

Would your decision be an indulgence or participation in worldly, carnal desires or lusts?



“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.” 1 Jn 2:15-16

5. Would your decision be a stumbling block to others?

How would your decision affect the lives of those around you? Even if you don't feel it is wrong, could it be offensive or harmful to those who are not mature in the faith or who are not Christians?

“For the name of God is blasphemed among the gentiles because of you...” Rom 2:24

“...beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak” 1 Cor 8:9

6. Would your decision be a hindrance to you?

Would your decision be something that would drag you away from God and your ability to practice and live a true Coptic Orthodox Christian life? Or influence you to disobey God?

“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1

7. Would your decision please God or man?

Whom do you hope to please by your decision? Will it please God to see you do what you have decided to do? Or would it please man?

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” Col 3:23

8. How would the devil react to your decision? Remember Eve's choice?

Would your choice be considered a victory or a defeat by the devil? Would he rejoice at your choice or would he be angry and disturbed?

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith...” 1 Peter 5:8-9

