



You Asked About...

## *Matters of Right and Wrong*

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You asked questions about right and wrong. This brings us into the arena of what some call "Christian ethics." It is good that we ask these questions, because God does not want us to have a cavalier attitude toward our Christian walk.

### **SOME SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

What does the Bible say about tattoos?

*Leviticus 19:28, You must not cut your body to show sadness for someone who died or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD. (NCV)*

*Leviticus 19:27, You must not cut the hair on the sides of your heads or cut the edges of your beard. (NCV)*

Is it right to do something you believe is wrong in order not to offend a non-believer?

*Matthew 11:19, The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by its results. (NLT)*

What does the Bible say about consuming alcohol? Is it okay in moderation?

Ephesians 4:18, *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life.* (NLT)

Proverbs 20:1, *Wine and beer make people loud and uncontrolled; it is not wise to get drunk on them.* (NCV)

Proverbs 23:31-33, *Don't gaze at the wine, seeing how red it is, how it sparkles in the cup, how smoothly it goes down. For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake; it stings like a viper. You will see hallucinations, and you will say crazy things.* (NLT)

1 Timothy 5:23, *Don't drink only water. You ought to drink a little wine for the sake of your stomach because you are sick so often.* (NIV)

## THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

What is the fundamental **aim** of my life?

1 Corinthians 10:31, *The answer is, if you eat or drink, or if you do anything, do it all for the glory of God.* (NCV)

As a follower of Christ, I am called to ask God to bless my life and to live my life for his pleasure.

What I do in and with my body is not a neutral matter.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, *You surely know that your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives. The Spirit is in you and is a gift from God. You are no longer your own. God paid a great price for you. So use your body to honor God.* (CEV)

## THREE QUESTIONS TO HELP MAKE IT WORK

Philippians 2:12-13, *Continue to work out your own salvation. Do it with fear and trembling. God is working in you. He wants your plans and your acts to be in keeping with his good purpose.* (NIRV)

Question #1: Is it **wrong**?

Proverbs 4:14-15, *Don't follow the ways of the wicked; don't do what evil people do. Avoid their ways, and don't follow them. Stay away from them and keep on going.* (NCV)

Not everything is in the "gray" areas of life.

Question #2: Is it **wise**?

Ephesians 4:18, *So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.* (NLT)

Question #3: Is it **worthy**?

Ephesians 4:1, *Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.*

Every outward action is a window of the heart.

Our decisions are not to be based on an external set of rules for right or wrong, but on the inner life of Christ who dwells in us by the Holy Spirit.