Teens: Winning the battle of…BAD DECISION MAKING

How to make right CHOICES



Introduction:

- Every decision is _____.
- You are _____ for the decisions you make in life.
- Your decisions both _____ your character and _____ it.
- Your _____ circumstances are (in large part) a result of your _____ choices.
- The decisions you must make today may be a result of decisions you made in your past (Our choices can result in a vicious or victorious cycle)
- God is concerned about the _____ of your life.
  (He cares about the choices you make - Mt 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.)

Lot: an example of a man who made bad choices (Genesis 13:9-13)

a. **Lot chose based on what he _____ with his <u>eyes</u>** (v.10a)
(He didn't think to pray first)

b. **Lot chose based on the prospect of _____ <u>advantage</u> (Monetary gain)**(v.10b)

c. **Lot chose out of _____, seeking the best <u>for</u>_____.**(v.11)

d. **Lot's choice made him vulnerable to making _____.** (v.12)

e. **Lot's choice negatively affected not only himself, but his entire _____**
(Gen.19:14-17;26;35-38)

Some Warnings about Decision Making:

1) Beware of making _____ decisions (Quick decisions)
2) Beware of making _____ decisions (Decisions when you are not close to God)
3) Beware of making _____ decisions (out of selfish motives)
4) Beware of making _____ decisions (If its doubtful, its dirty)
5) Beware of making _____ decisions (without reason)
6) Beware of making _____ decisions (throwing out "the fleece")



Some fundamental decisions you must make:
You must make a genuine, thought out, conscious decision to…

1. **_____ Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation**

2. **_____ your life completely to God's will**

3. **_____ the commands and principles that are specifically addressed by the Bible (for the N.T. believer).** Such as…
   a. Keeping yourself morally _____ (in thought, word & action)
   b. Communing with God _____
   c. Fellowshipping with _____ regularly
   d. Children _____ their parents
   e. Being Loving, truthful, sanctified, humble, a good employee etc.

How do I make wise decisions?

Ask yourself the following questions before making the choice:

1. Have I <u>prayed to God</u> about this decision?

Proverbs 3:5,6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2. Do I need <u>Godly counsel (advice)</u> about this decision?

Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Pr 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Pr 19:20 - Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

3. Do I have a <u>solid Bible reason</u> to justify this decision?

Psalm 119:105 - Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

4. Which of my choices should be my <u>priority</u>?

Mt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

5. Which of my choices would most <u>please & glorify</u> God?

Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Make your decisions based upon what is <u>right</u>, not what is popular, or feels good.

6. What would be the <u>long-term effects</u> of my choice?

Pr 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Don't made decisions based merely upon <u>immediate</u> results.

"Never sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the immediate" (Dr. Bob Jones Sr.)

7. Do I have <u>peace</u> about my decision?

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Concluding Remarks about God's will in your decisions:

- **God's will is not a "bitter medicine"**

Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

- **God never leads a person contrary to His Word**

Psalm 119:35 - Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

- **God only moves those who are in motion for Him; He does not steer parked cars**

Acts 13:2 - As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

- **God gives you the desire and ability to do whatever He wants you to do**

Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

"Knowing God's will is life's greatest knowledge;
Doing God's will is life's greatest privilege"

- Dr. Bob Jones Sr.