

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

March 2017

www.cocnorthside.com

Should I or Shouldn't I?

If we're ever mulling over in our minds whether it is okay to murder someone, we need not mull very long. The Bible lays out some pretty specific “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not” for us, (like murder being a definite no) but there are times when we find ourselves asking if a certain thing is okay for us as a Christian because it may not be addressed anywhere in scripture.

A couple of years ago, I was privileged to listen to a lecture by Teresa Hampton, the wife of a faithful gospel preacher and a wonderful godly woman and teacher. She presented a test list of questions for us to consider when we're faced with the dilemma, “should I or shouldn't I?” It was thought provoking and very helpful. I'd like to share that list with you here:

- 1) **The Bible test** – Is this activity condemned in scripture?
- 2) **Brother test** – Can I show love to my brother or sister in Christ if I engage in this?
- 3) **Love test** – Will this activity show my love for the Father and Jesus Christ?
- 4) **Secrecy test** – Why am I keeping this activity a secret?
- 5) **Harm test** - Will this harm me in any way physically or spiritually?
- 6) **Corruption test** – Will it corrupt my mind?
- 7) **Influence test** – How will participating in this affect my Christian influence?

8) **The Lordship test** - Is this activity becoming the lord of my life?

9) **The Glory test** - Who will get the glory from my participating in this activity? Can it/will it glorify God? (Colossians 3:17)

10) **The Warning Signs test** – Am I having a twinge or uneasy thought about this?

11) **The Kingdom test** – Can I do this and still be putting Christ's kingdom first in my life?

12) **The Jesus test** – Would you do this if Jesus was standing beside you? (I John 2:28)

13) **The Prayer test** - Can I ask the Lord to bless this activity?

This list can be used as a great resource not only for ourselves but for our kids, teenagers, and even those friends and family of ours that may wonder why we do or don't do certain things. When the world doesn't see anything wrong with things such as immodest dress, dancing, social drinking, gossip, “little white lies”, ungodly entertainment, etc., the questions on this list serve to show them what our priorities are or should be as a child of God who is striving to serve Him faithfully in all things.

As we use this list for ourselves, we need to remember that it can only help us if we're willing to answer the questions honestly. The only reason we even question if something is okay to do in the first place (or try to justify it) is simply because we *want* to do it, but our goal should be to want to please God, not self. Hard to do? Yes, but not impossible. It is a constant process to work toward “none of self and all of Thee”.

The choices we make every day matter. They do not just affect us but others around us, sometimes in ways we don't fully take into consideration or appreciate. Our choices also affect God. All we do should be done not only in the name of the Lord but to His glory.

~Heather Pryor

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.

~Colossians 3:17

Ladies Bible Class – March 18th, 9:00 a.m. Please bring your Bible and a breakfast item to share. We will be studying **Lesson 11.**

Search the Scriptures

Who Said It?

1. “The Father has not left me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.” (John 8:29) _____
2. “How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9) _____
3. “Therefore, we make it our aim...to be well pleasing to Him.” (II Corinthians 5:9) _____
4. “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38) _____
5. “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10) _____

Answers to January quiz

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| <u> e </u> 1. shepherds | a. He asked God to show him His glory. |
| <u> d </u> 2. Stephen | b. They told Philip they wished to see Jesus. |
| <u> a </u> 3. Moses | c. Jesus told him that he believed because he had seen. |
| <u> c </u> 4. Thomas | d. He looked into heaven and saw the glory of God. |
| <u> b </u> 5. Greeks | e. An angel stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. |

RECIPE CORNER

"She...provides food for her household." ~Prov. 31:15

Stock up on some succulent zucchini to make this tasty and healthy dish!

ZUCCHINI RATATOUILLE

- 1 T. olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 1 large red bell pepper, chopped
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 3 large zucchini, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1/3 cup chicken stock
- 2 tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 2 tsp. thyme
- 2 tsp. basil or Italian seasoning
- salt and pepper to taste

In a large skillet (preferably cast iron!) heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Saute' the onion and bell pepper for a few minutes until vegetables start to brown. Stir in garlic, then add zucchini. Saute' for a few minutes until zucchini starts to brown. Add the chicken broth and scrape up any brown bits from the skillet and stir. Add the tomatoes, thyme, basil, salt and pepper. Stir well then cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables reach your preferred tenderness. Use a slotted spoon to remove vegetables from pan. Drizzle with olive oil and serve.

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

~I Corinthians 10:31
