

Deciding Together- Lesson 7
(Series: **Making Wise Decisions**)

Introduction:

- **Review:**
- **Today:** Our personal decisions, whether small or large, can have a positive or negative effect on others- family members, church members, and unsaved around us

I. Making personal decisions with others in mind

A. Ways that our personal decisions can impact others

1. Decisions regarding work:

- Paul's reason to work with his hands was motivated out of love for others (1 Cor 9:6ff)
 - He didn't want to be a burden to others
 - He wanted to bring the gospel free of charge so no one could accuse him of doing it for money
 - Wanted to set an example to the believers.

- i. Work allows us to do good to others, by using the skills that God has given us

Gal 6:10

10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- ii. We have opportunities to help others in need

Eph 4:28

28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so **that he may have something to share with anyone in need.**

- iii. We will not be a burden to others

2 Thes 3:7-12

8 Nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.

- iv. We work out of love for our family

1 Tim 5:8

8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

2. Decisions regarding church:

- Love for the church will affect our lifestyle choices- Where we live, recreation, our work decisions.. etc

- Providing that we are viewing church biblically:

Heb 10:24-25

24 And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works**, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

1 Thess 5:11

11 Therefore **encourage one another and build one another up**, just as you are doing.

Heb 3:13

13 But **exhort one another every day**, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin

Col 3:16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, **teaching and admonishing one another** in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Eph 4:15-16

15 Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

1 Cor 12:7

7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

3. Decisions regarding spiritual disciplines

- If you become lazy in your daily Bible reading, prayer, evangelism, walking in holiness, it is going to affect not only your relationship with the Lord, but with others also

4. Decisions regarding my Christian liberty

- What I eat, what I drink, what I wear, what I do with my free time, these all will impact those around me positively or negatively

Rom 14:15

15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. 16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

B. Involving others in the decision-making process

- Since our personal decisions will impact others, we ought to include them in the decision-making process when necessary

II. Submitting to leaders in corporate decisions

- God has appointed leaders in different spheres of our lives- home, church, and civil government
- When those leaders make decisions that are not sinful but with which we don't agree, how do we respond?
 - We have one of two choices:
 1. Submit and trust God to lead them
 2. Resist and insist on our way