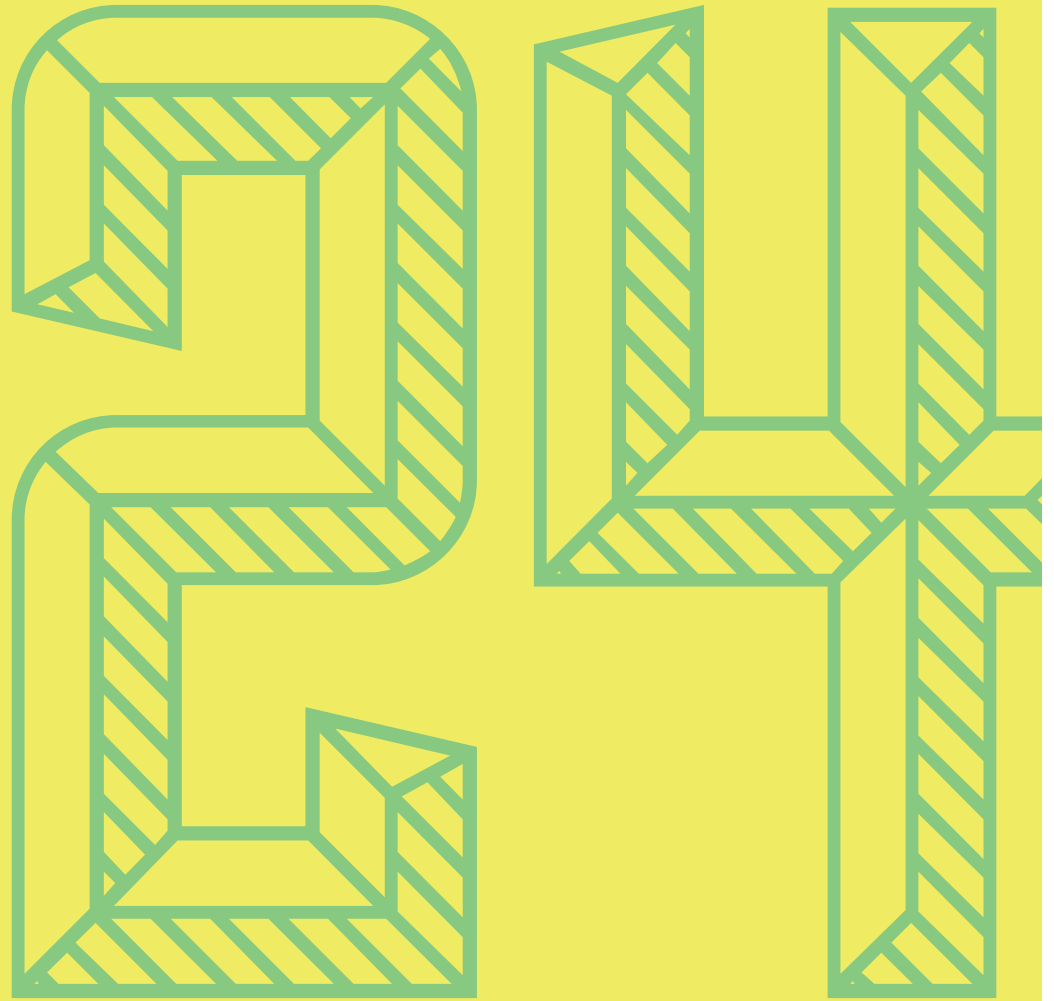


S E S S I O N



BOUNDARIES

OUR COMMON CHALLENGE

*How do we make good biblically-based, God-honoring decisions?
BTW – we'd like to remove all the uncertainty from life, but that's not going to happen!*

HOW TO MAKE A BIBLICAL DECISION?

Let's start by agreeing that nothing can possibly occur outside of God's sovereign will – EVER! Therefore, you don't ever have to concern yourself with His sovereign will

REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

- **Whom should I marry?**
 - *How does God's sovereign will apply to this decision?*
- **Should I take this job?**
 - *How does God's sovereign will apply to this decision?*

Whatever choice you make will be within His sovereign will, so we can ignore His sovereign will when making decisions!

FOUR PRACTICAL DECISION MAKING PRINCIPLES

1. Where God ⁽²²¹⁾ _____, we must obey

Applying Decision Making Principle #1

- Ask the question – does the decision have a moral component? If so, choose obedience!
- Keep in mind– – His moral will includes your . . .
 - Actions - what I do
 - Attitudes - how I do it
 - Motives - why I do it
- Whom should I marry?
 - How does God's sovereign will apply to this decision?
 - Must be a believer
 - Must be someone of opposite sex
 - Must be someone who isn't married
 - Must be legally eligible
- Should I take this job?
 - How does God's sovereign will apply to this decision?
 - Must be a legitimate company/employer
 - Must be a legal job
 - Job must not violate ethical standards

2. Where this is no command, God gives us ⁽²²²⁾ _____ to choose

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. - **Ephesians 5:15-16**

Applying Decision Making Principle #2

- Ask the question –
 - In light of my past experiences . . .
 - In light of my current circumstances . . .
 - In light of my future hopes and dreams . . .

What is the WISE thing to do?

“Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.”

- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

“Love God and do whatever you please.”

- Augustine circa 400 A.D.

Applying Decision Making Principle #2 (con't.)

- What do my wise counselors say about this situation?
 - Proverbs 15:22
 - Proverbs 24:6
- Prayerfully, has God brought any Scripture to mind, and how does it apply?
 - Psalms 119:24
 - Proverbs 2:1-8

• **Whom should I marry?**

- **How does wisdom address this decision?**

- **Must be a believer**
- **Must be someone of opposite sex**
- **Must be someone who isn't married**
- **Must be legally eligible**

• **Should I take this job?**

- **How does wisdom address this decision?**

- **Does it leverage my core strengths and abilities?**
- **Does it meet my financial needs?**
- **Does it promote/inhibit my kingdom impact?**

3. Where there is no command, God gives us ⁽²²³⁾ _____ and ⁽²²⁴⁾ _____ to choose.

Where there is no law, there is no transgression. - **Romans 4:15**

A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. - **1 Corinthians 7:39**

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. **1 Corinthians 8:8**

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. - **Genesis 2:15-16**

Applying Decision Making Principle #3

- Ask the question . . .
 - What do I prefer?
 - What are my hopes?
 - What are my dreams?
 - What do I want?

• **Whom should I marry?**

- **How do personal preferences impact this decision?**

- **I like these physical traits . . .**
- **I like this type of humor . . .**
- **I like this kind of . . .**

• **Should I take this job?**

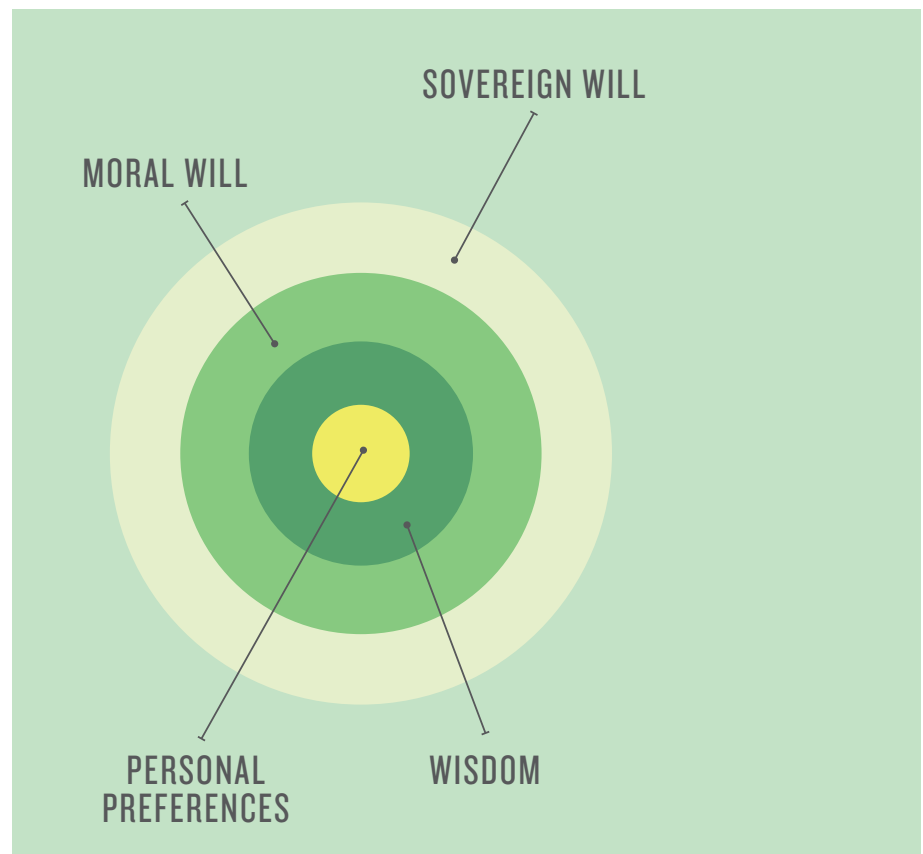
- **How do personal preferences impact this decision?**

- **I like this kind of work environment . . .**
- **I like this size of company . . .**
- **I like this manager's style . . .**

4. *When we have chosen what is moral and wise, we must* ⁽²²⁵⁾ _____
the sovereign God to work all the details together for good

4 DECISION MAKING PRINCIPLES

1. *Where God commands, we must obey*
2. *Where there is no command, God gives us wisdom to choose*
3. *Where there is no command, God gives us freedom and responsibility to choose*
4. *When we have chosen what is moral and wise, we must trust the sovereign God to work all the details together for good*



THINGS TO PONDER

- *If God wants us to get His decision before we make a decision, why give us Proverbs & Ecclesiastes?*
 - Why encourage us to seek wisdom?
 - Why encourage us to seek counsel?
- *What kind of father would a man be if he made 100% of his kids' decisions?*
 - When infants, he makes 100%
 - When adults, he makes 0%
- *His job is to train them how to make decisions, how to seek wisdom, and who to obey – and then release them!*

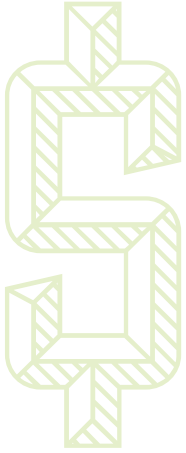
IS GOD INVOLVED IN OUR DECISIONS?

- **Yes, Intimately!**
 - Gives us His Word!
 - Gives us His Spirit to illuminate His Word!
 - Gives us a new nature with a desire and ability to obey His Word (moral will)!
 - Gives us grace enabling us to trust Him!
 - Gives us wisdom as we ask for it!
 - Gives us counselors to help us!
- *Moral Guidance - In moral areas God guides by Scriptural commands*
- *Wisdom Guidance - Where there is no command, God gives freedom and wisdom sufficient for every decision*
- *Sovereign Guidance - God secretly guides by working all events together for the believer's good*

PRINCIPLE
ELEVEN

Choose (226)

SESSION 24 SUMMARY



God has created you uniquely, with talents, gifts, and abilities unlike any other person on the planet – Glorify Him by living your life to the fullest! Make decisions based on the clear model of Scripture:

1. *Where God commands, we must obey*
2. *Where there is no command, God gives us wisdom to choose*
3. *Where there is no command, God gives us freedom & responsibility to choose*
4. *When we have chosen what is moral and wise, we must trust the sovereign God to work all the details together for good*

1. If God gives us freedom, is it a lack of faith not to take Him at His word and believe it?

2. Can you recall any decisions you'd like to "REDO" because they violated the command to seek wisdom?

GOD'S DESIGN IS FREEDOM

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed"
- Luke 4:18

PRAY FOR FREEDOM

Prayer of Deliverance Adapted From:

Truly Free - by Robert Morris (2015)