

25 Tests For Discerning Good From Evil

(Heb. 5:11-14; 2Cor. 5:14-17, 21; 1Thes. 5:21-22; Phil. 4:8-9; 1Tim. 4:16)

1. SCRIPTURAL TEST - Does the word of God approve or forbid the action? 1Peter 3:15
2. IDENTITY TEST - Will this activity identify me with Christ or His opponent? Gal. 2:20; Matt. 5:14-16
3. SACRIFICIAL TEST - If I do this, will it pollute the sacrifice? Rom. 12:1-2; 1Cor. 6:15-20
4. PERSONAL TEST - Will doing this trouble my conscience, thus causing me to sin? Rom. 14:22-23
5. EVANGELISTIC TEST - Will my doing this hinder me from leading others to the Lord? Matt. 5:13
6. PRACTICAL TEST - Will this decision be desirable and helpful in every day life? 1Peter 3:10-11; Eph. 6:1-3
7. UNIVERSAL TEST - If everyone else was doing this, what kind of world/church would this be? Matt. 20:25-28
8. STEWARDSHIP TEST - Will activity be a waste of my time, ability, potential or money? 1Cor. 4:2
9. INFLUENCE TEST - Will my example help or hinder other Christians? 1Tim. 4:12
10. CHARACTER TEST - Will this build my integrity and strengthen my spiritual backbone? Phil. 1:20-21
11. FAMILY TEST - What effect will this have on my family? Gen. 18:17-19; 1Tim. 5:8, 14
12. BLASPHEMY TEST - Will my unfaithfulness lead others to blaspheme the word? Titus 2:1-5
13. PUBLICITY TEST - Am I be willing for my parents or fellow Christians to know that I am doing this? Eph. 5:11-12
14. FINANCIAL TEST - Will this keep me from giving as the Bible commands? 1Cor. 16:1-2; 2Cor. 9:7
15. COMMON SENSE TEST - Is this activity foolish and nonsensical? Prov. 1:20-22, 2:10-11
16. FAIRNESS TEST - Is this activity honest and fair to others, as well as to myself? Matt. 7:12; Rev. 21:27
17. MILLSTONE TEST - Does this decision make my brethren loathe me? Rom. 14:13, 20-21; Matt 18:6-7; Phil 2:3-4
18. CONSISTENCY TEST - Is this in character with what I say; does it prove my spiritual stability? Eph. 4:13-15
19. WEIGHT TEST - Is this activity slowing down my growth as a Christian? Heb. 12:1-3
20. APPEARANCE TEST - Does this activity carry a hint or suggestion of evil? 1Thes. 5:22; Gal. 5:21
21. FLESHLY DESIRE TEST - Will this activity cause me to dwell on carnal thoughts? 1Peter 2:11
22. CHILD PARTICIPATION TEST - Do I want my children doing this? Prov. 14:26, 1

23. AWARENESS TEST - Do I mind that God sees and knows that I am engaged in this? Heb. 4:13

24. COMPANIONSHIP TEST - Will this activity put me in with the wrong company? 1Cor. 15:33

25. YOKE TEST - Will this decision bind me so that I must abandon my relationship with God? 2Cor. 6:14-18

If There Were No Salt

We could not live without salt. An article in This Week Magazine tells that exceptionally strong men, working in the forge rooms of an automobile factory where the temperature was so high that the men perspired abnormally, would drop to the floor and writhe in agony without apparent cause.

After prolonged study, a Harvard Laboratory staff discovered that, although the men drank cold water freely, in the hot temperature, this did not replace the salt that they had perspired out of their systems.

A salt tablet with each drink of water stopped the "heat cramps." Not only do our bodies need salt, but the manufacturing world needs it. Steel, subjected to terrific strain in automobiles, is hardened by a salt water bath. The famous Carrel-Dakin antiseptic solution, which saved hundreds of thousands of lives during the World War, has as its chief ingredient chlorine, which comes from salt.

Without salt cows stop giving milk and sicken and die. If salt disappeared from the earth, "the wheels of industry would eventually stop and it would be only a matter of months before we'd all be dead."

The scientists tell us, the supply of salt in the natural world "is practically unlimited, there being an inconceivable number of pounds in the ocean alone."

The Lord Jesus said to his disciples; "Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men" (Matt. 5:13).

Umpires

"Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written; that no one of you be puffed up for the one against the other." (1Cor. 4:6)

Baseball umpires are carved from granite and stuffed with microchips. They are professional dispensers of pure justice. Once when an umpire by the name of Pinelli called Babe Ruth "out" on strikes, Ruth reasoned fallaciously, "There's 44,000 people here who know that last one was a 'ball'." Mr. Pinelli replied, "Maybe so, but mine is the only opinion that counts." (From George Will)

Those who rigidly stand for God's holy truth are often ridiculed as being a narrow-minded minority. Nevertheless, they realize that in the end there's only one opinion that truly counts - the one revealed by God Himself in His holy written word.

A Moments Wisdom

We may have committed the Golden Rule to memory, but what we really need to do is to commit it to life.

The Christian's life is the world's Bible.

It is never the right time to do the wrong thing.

What you don't see with your eyes, don't witness with your mouth.

An apology unfelt is no better than the original wrongful deed.

When I hear somebody sigh, "Life is so hard," I am always tempted to ask, 'Compared to what?'

Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things.

A caring teacher hands children their passport to the future.

A crust eaten in peace is better than a banquet partaken in anxiety.

The greatest of faults is to be conscious of none.

The way to develop self-confidence is to do the thing you fear.

One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.