

Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets:
What Is The Wise Thing
To Do?

Pastor Cory Johnson
Saturday, January 23, 2021
Ephesians 1:15-23; Jeremiah 17:9;
Ephesians 5:15-21

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. Ephesians 1:15-16

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. Ephesians 1:17

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, Ephesians 1:18

¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, Ephesians 1:19-20

²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:21

²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:22-23

What is the wise thing to do? The right questions help us get out of our own way.

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9

Our natural inclination is to get as close to the line as possible. How close can I get? How far can I go?

How far over can I go without feeling or facing any consequences? With this filter you... Spend as much as you can. Eat as much as you can. Drink as much as you can. Enjoy as much as you can. Complain as much as you can.

By asking this we set the bar low. Lower than we would for people we love.

If it's not wrong, it's alright. If it's not over the line, it's allowed. If it's not illegal, it's legal. If it's not immoral, it's okay.

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, Ephesians 5:15

What is the wise thing to do? In light of my past experiences, my current circumstances, my future hopes and dreams,

¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:16

Evil is the breaking down of life. Redeeming/renovating is building it up.

“Nobody plans to ruin their life, they just don’t plan not to.” - Andy Stanley

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Ephesians 5:17

Wisdom is key to understanding God’s will for your life.

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, Ephesians 5:18

Debauchery: A behavior which shows lack of concern or thought for the consequences of an action. What one does when the mind is absent.

¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, Ephesians 5:19

Your decisions build up or tear down the people around you.

²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:20-21

What is the wise thing to do?