

“LEARNING TO DISCERN GOD’S WILL!”

Introduction: So you want to be sure of God’s will for your life! How do you discern God’s will in areas where there is no specific biblical guidance?

Find I Corinthians 6:12 and put “Discerning God’s Will” at the top of the page in your Bible and then write these questions in the margin by each verse:

1. Is It Profitable? (1 Cor 6:12a)

- **Sumphoros = profitable, useful, expedient,**
 - Used in 1 Cor 10:33 Just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.
 - Used in 1 Cor 7:35 This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

- **Will it be meaningful 5, 10 or 20 years in the future?**
 - Working on my Doctorate – Why did I start? For discipleship. I don’t need the degree. IT was hard! I worked basically a 7 day week for a year! I took calls at all hours of the night. I don’t need the degree. I have learned so quit. No – you don’t know what doors may be opened in the future.
 - College student according to the latest statistics will still earn about 70% more over the course of his lifetime on the average.

- **Will it count for eternity? “Only one life will soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last!”**

2. Will It Master Me? (1 Cor 6:12b)

- **Do I have to have it?**
 - 1850. exousiazō, ex-oo-see-ad'-zo; from G1849; to control:--exercise authority upon, bring under the (have) power of.
 - I like Chai Tea Latte – I treat myself often on the way to Elder prayer with a cup – I do a Venti “That’s the big one.” Do I have to have it?

3. Will It Harm My Body? (1 Cor 6:19)

- **Is it immoral? Then it is automatically out!**
 - Sex outside of marriage then there is no question. It’s sin & its out.
- **May I meddle?**
 - Do I watch my diet?
 - Do I ask if this music at this level is going to hurt my ears?
 - How much sun is good for my body? Do I really need that dark of a tan?
 - How much soda do I need?

4. Will It Unequally Yoke Me With An Unbeliever? (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

- **Unequally yoked**
 - 2086. heterozugo, het-er-od-zoog-eh'-o; from a comp. of G2087 and G2218; to yoke up differently, i.e. (fig.) to associate discordantly:--unequally yoke together with.

- **There is no partnership of righteousness and lawlessness. 6:14**

- 3352. metoche, met-okh-ay'; from G3348; participation, i.e. intercourse:--fellowship.
- There is no fellowship of light with darkness. 6:14
 - 2842. koinonia, koy-nohn-ee'-ah; from G2844; partnership, i.e. (lit.) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction:--(to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.
- There is no harmony between Christ and Belial (Satan). 6:15
 - 4857. sumphonesis, soom-fo'-nay-sis; from G4856; accordance:--concord.
 - 955. Belial, bel-ee'-al; of Heb. or. [H1100]; worthlessness; Belial, as an epithet of Satan:--Belial.
- There is nothing in common between a believer and a nonbeliever. 6:15
- You must be separate Vs 6:17
 - See the back of your notes for a study on living a separate life from the world.
- You have God's promises.
 - He will walk with you 6:16
 - You will be called His sons and daughters 6:18
- 5. Will It Be A Stumbling Block To Another? (1 Cor 8:9)
 - Would you become a vegetarian for the cause of Christ?
- 6. Will It Edify? Build Up? (1 Cor 10:23)
 - 3618. oikodomeo, oy-kod-om-eh'-o; from the same as G3619; to be a house-builder, i.e. construct or (fig.) confirm:--(be in) build (-er, -ing, up), edify, embolden.
 - 1 Cor 14:4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.
 - 1 Cor 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.
 - 1 Cor 14:17 For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.
 - 1 Thess 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.
- 7. Can I Do This To The Glory Of God? (1 Cor 10:31)
 - 1391. doxa, dox'-ah; from the base of G1380; glory (as very apparent), in a wide application (lit. or fig., obj. or subj.):--dignity, glory (-ious), honour, praise, worship.
 - For your glory – doxa – we get our word doxology
 - Your honour
 - Your Praise
 - Your Worship
 - Your Dignity

Conclusion: Apply the 1 & 2 Corinthians 6,8,10 Principles! Ask the questions and then if your conscience is clear, proceed. Is there still doubt? If you can't do it with a clear conscience, then don't do it. (Romans 14:23)