

For Our Information

Joyce Venable is doing better.

John LaValla has been doing a little better since starting medication.

Carolynn Richmond will be in Houston for a few months or so.

John Venable (Bill's brother) continues to have some difficulties with his recovery.

Each family assembling with us have those with health issues, recovery, or injury. Remember these in your prayers to the Father.

Keep our brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

to the above is this question. We are to be concerned that our influence provides "light" to the world (**Mt. 5:13-16**). There are some things that are not harmful, but are not the best for one's influence either. Paul told Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity" (**1Tim. 4:12**).

Rather than from a negative viewpoint (such as the question, "Is this a sin?"), this passage positively teaches that our lives should be such that people can use us as a guide to follow, an example in what we say, how we behave ourselves, our love, faith and moral purity. In other words, ask yourself the question, "Is this the way everyone should behave and everyone be right?"

It is hoped that these questions will help as we strive to order our lives after the One who gave His that we might live with Him in heaven.

(Edited from an article in News & Notes, May 4, 2003 DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

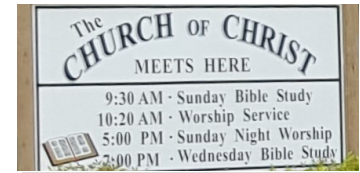
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Should I?

Philip A. Owens

Jesus left us "an example, that we should follow in His steps" (**1Pet. 2:21**). Among other things, A.T. Robertson's Word Pictures In The New Testament says: "a writing-copy for one to imitate ... Clement of Alexandria uses it of the copyhead at the top of a child's exercise book for the child to imitate, including all the letters of the alphabet." We all did this when we learned to write. We tried to duplicate on our own lines what we saw at the top of the page-- the perfect example of the alphabet! Sometimes we would place another piece of paper over the perfect alphabet example and trace the letters, trying to make them as perfect as that which we were copying. So it



Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

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is in following Christ! We should try to follow His example as far as we possibly can in every area of life.

Jesus' words and works constitute that example, that pattern. Therefore, we should look to Jesus (as we did to the top of the page for the perfect alphabet to copy) when a question arises. But some questions are not easily answered. You may have a question that Jesus does not deal with specifically. However, there are a number of righteous principles which should form questions that determine if Jesus would condone or condemn what is under consideration. Peter says that God granted us *"all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us"* (**2Pet. 1:3**), and Paul says that the inspired Word is beneficial for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, and furnished completely to every good work (**2Tim. 3:16-17**). Therefore, the Scriptures provide righteous principles upon which questions may be answered.

Is the matter under consideration directly associated with things specifically condemned? For example, high school proms are not specifically mentioned in the Bible. And dancing does not always have a sinful connotation (See **2Sam. 6:16,20-23**). But lasciviousness is specifically condemned (**Gal. 5:19**)! Thayer defines it as "wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females." This would not only condemn the kind of dancing done at proms, but it would also answer other questions such as whether or not it is wrong to tell dirty jokes and pet on dates.

Can I participate in what is under consideration in all good conscience? **Romans 14** deals with matters that were right (such as eating meats **vs. 2**, and esteeming certain days above others **vs. 5**) that some felt conscientiously bound to keep. However, to God it did not matter one way or another **vs. 3**. Others

Store In My Heart

Psalm 63:1

O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.

How desperate are you to have God in your life?

The Psalmist cries out with this verse stating that his desire to be with God is a great thirst. Even a thirst and yearning that one might experience in a land with no water. I envision a scene of one crawling through the desert hoping to find even a drop of water to quench the great thirst that has become his entire life. Overwhelmed by such desire, he can think of nothing else.

Is this your desire for God? A desire that keeps you reaching toward Him always?

despised or looked down on those whose consciences were tender toward these matters. Perhaps certain Jews were still used to their dietary restrictions of the Old Testament, and some Gentiles thought that the eating of a piece of meat might be construed as honoring an idol god (**1Cor. 8:7**). Further, some Jews might have been so used to honoring God on the sabbath or other feast days that they wanted to continue to honor God in some way by esteeming *"one day above another"* (**Rom. 14:5**). Paul's point: *"Let each man be fully assured in his own mind"*.

While we may commit sin and be conscientiously right as did Paul (**Acts 23:1**), we can never be right when we do anything with a bad conscience, even if the thing we are doing is right! We must do what is right, and do it with a clean or good conscience. Never violate your conscience. If in the back of your mind you have a question mark as to whether or not you should do what is under consideration, don't!

Will I lead another to sin by what is under consideration? Wearing what is the *"attire of a harlot"* (**Prov. 7:10**), the "tease" look, clothes too tight, too low, or too high, can cause others to lust (**Mt. 5:27-28**). In fact, some clothes are designed with that in mind. If there is a question that some eye might be led to look to lust by a certain garment being worn, don't wear it!

Jesus showed the severity of our actions when they lead one to sin when He said, *"whoso shall cause one of these little ones that believe on Me to stumble, it is profitable for him that a great millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be sunk in the depth of the sea"* (**Mt. 18:6**). Parents do this when they forsake the assembling of saints for recreation or vacation; they are saying to their children that the worship of God is less important than "fun".

Will my influence be harmed? Closely connected