



1 Corinthians 16:5-9 Notes

1. General Guidelines

- a. **Caution:** Understand how the curse of sin influences our decision making.
 - i. **Culture:** Sin corrupts culture. Culture influences pressure.
 - ii. **Confidence.** Where is my trust? In Self or Christ? Proverbs 16:2 *All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives.*

How do I get direction and make life's plans? Who do I marry, what job do I take, do I move?

- b. **Command-** Starts with God's word. Heb. 5:14 *Solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish between right and wrong.* 2 Peter 1:3-5 *His divine power has given us everything we need for life... through our knowledge of Him.*

2. A pattern for the less clear ordinary choices. V.5-9

- a. **(Sanctified) Common Sense Choices-** Informed by practicing God's word. *What do I know to be true?*
- b. **Consider Consequences:** Have I thought it through? Paul: V.8-9.
- c. **Calling:**
 - i. **General:** How does this fit into what God calls me to generally as a servant of Jesus.
 - ii. **Specific:** What I know God is calling me to.
- d. **Counsel from mature:** *"Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed"* (Prov. 11:14). David had Ahithophel, Hushai and 37 mighty men. Who's your counselor?
- e. **Counsel from the Comforter:** Holy Spirit peace. Phil. 4:7 Do I have a peace that passes all understanding? Is my peace filtered through counsel, prayer, understanding of my heart?

What if I make the wrong decision?

- f. **Course Correct:** Paul held loosely to his plans V.6-7. Prov. 16:9 *A man's heart plans his way; the Lord directs his steps.*

Questions for Grow Groups:

1. Why should "peace" from God not be the primary role in decision making?
2. Augustine famously preached: *Love God with your whole heart, mind, soul and do whatever you like!* Why is this a valid statement of truth? How does this speak to the freedom that we have as believers? Are there decisions where it might not be a valid decision-making principle?
3. Do I have a Mighty Man/woman in my life that I am willing to listen to? Do they have the freedom to say anything, even if they may be incorrect, without me getting offended?
4. Share an example of how *your heart incorrectly planned your way* and the *Lord directed your steps?*
5. How should the truth of being adopted into God's family change how I make plans?