

YELLOW LIGHT ISSUES

JULY 8, 2018

I. INTRODUCTION/REVIEW: GPS

Acts 15:28-29 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.

A. 2 Questions In Acts 15

1. *How is a person saved?*
2. *How does a saved person live?*
 - A person is saved by faith alone in Jesus Christ.

B. **GPS** — A Compass for navigating the trending topics of our challenging times.

1. *G - God — Does this glorify God?*
2. *P - People — Does this encourage or discourage others?*
3. *S - Self — Does this cause me to be closer to or further away from God?*

C. **Yellow Light Issues are questions of conscience that may not have a clear right or wrong answer.**

II. TWO QUESTIONS FOR YELLOW LIGHT ISSUES

1. Could I go too far?

1 Corinthians 10:23 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive.

A. Is this beneficial?

1 Corinthians 6:12 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.

Proverbs 25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.

Proverbs 16:32 Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.

B. Is this constructive?

1. Just because you can do something does not mean that you should.

“Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.”— C.H. Spurgeon

2. Sometimes what seems like punishment is actually protection.

C. Could this become sin?

2 Samuel 11:1-3 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her.

2. Could someone get hurt?

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

A. What is right for you can be wrong for someone else.

1 Corinthians 10:25-28 Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, for, “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.” If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

1. *We can become so wrapped up in our own life that we fail to be aware of the lives around us.*

Galatians 5:13-14 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Galatians 5:15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

2. *When we talk about people, we are talking about people for whom Christ died.*

1 Timothy 2:1-4 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Corinthians 8:9-11 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.

B. Yellow Light Issues may often be things that we use to cover over other issues in our lives.

1. *We become more interested in how it makes us feel than in how it makes others feel or how it makes God feel.*

Psalms 19:14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Proverbs 4:24 Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

1 Corinthians 8:10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols?

2. *We must be careful that we are not judging people from either side of the line that we have drawn.*

Romans 14:13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

C. Yellow Issue: Alcohol & Drinking

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

Proverbs 23:29-35 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Your eyes will see strange sights, and your mind will imagine confusing things. You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. “They hit me,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt! They beat me, but I don’t feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?”

Why I Do Not Drink

1. *I am a Pastor.*

2. *I am a Leader.*

Ecclesiastes 10:17 Blessed is the land whose king is of noble birth and whose princes eat at a proper time— for strength and not for drunkenness.

3. *I am a Relative.*

4. *I am a Parent.*

5. *I am a Brother.*

6. *I want to be Wise.*

Ephesians 5:15-18 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

- Is this decision public or private?
- Is this decision mature or immature?
- Is this decision selfish or selfless?
- Does this decision weaken or strengthen?

1 Corinthians 8:12-13 When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

D. Our Influence

“I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.”—Charles Spurgeon

1. *What one generation does in moderation another will do in excess.*

2 Kings 21:20-22 He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done. He followed completely the ways of his father, worshiping the idols his father had worshiped, and bowing down to them. He forsook the Lord, the God of his ancestors, and did not walk in obedience to him.

2 Kings 22:1-2 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

2. *How you live shapes those around you.*

1 Corinthians 10:12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!