

“Before You Decide”
1 Corinthians 7:32-40
Fractured: How God Restores a Broken Church
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In the backpack of your _____, you’ve got plenty of room. What’s one more thing?

The point? *Too many good things will make one’s life heavy. It will be more difficult to move towards what matters most.*

“Okay, Pastor, so in response, spell it out for me. What matters most?” Glad you asked.

- Your relationship with Jesus is what matters most in life.

You’re either making a major life decision now, or one is coming.

- When in the midst of major decisions, what questions do you ask? (Circle one.)
 - Will this make me happy? Can I afford it? What will other people think? What could I lose if I do this? What could I gain? Will this make my life easier?

Speaking of questions... In the midst of this major decision, here’s a great question to ask: “WILL THIS DECISION HELP OR HINDER _____?”

A relationship with Jesus is KNOWING, LOVING, OBEYING, and FOLLOWING Him with your whole life.

KNOWING Him — ongoing communion through His Word, prayer, and worship. (Jn 17:3; Jn 15:4–5)

LOVING Him — Jesus receives supreme affection. (Mt 22:37; 10:37-39)

OBEYING Him — “If you love me, obey my commandments.” (Jn 14:15)

FOLLOWING Him — our time, money, relationships, church involvement, service, mission, and decisions increasingly come under His lordship. (Lk 9:23)

Exploring some real-world scenarios will be of great benefit: The job promotion, the relationship, the kid’s sports decision, the overtime decision, the retirement decision, college/trade school/military/work force, the financial purchase, the marriage decision, the calendar decision

What happens when Jesus isn’t central to the decision-making process?

- Good opportunities can become bad distractions. (Heb 12:1–2)
- We can make permanent decisions based on temporary emotions. (Pro 14:12)
- We can unnecessarily complicate our lives. (Lk 10:41–42)
- Our spiritual priorities can gradually get crowded out. (Mk 4:18–19)
- Something that is biblically permissible may not be wise. (1 Cor 10:23)
- Our decisions can adversely affect loved ones. (Deut 6:6–7)
- We can wake up years later wondering how we drifted so far away. (Heb 2:1)

In our main passage, we learn that... some members of the church community in the city of Corinth were faced with a major life decision: In the midst of a crisis, should I get married or not?

The apostle Paul sees this question as an opportunity to convey the following:

Will the decision help or hinder your relationship with Jesus?

1 Corinthians 7:32-40

1. **V 35...** Consider how your decision will affect your _____ to Jesus. (Heb 12:1-2)
 - *Ask yourself...* Will this decision make it harder or easier for me to know, love, obey, and follow Jesus?
2. **V 38...** A decision can be permissible yet not _____. (Eph 5:15-17; 1 Cor 10:23)
 - *Ask yourself...* Will this help me to follow Jesus better? NOT, is this inherently a sinful thing?
3. **V 39...** Your major life decision needs to be placed under the _____ of Jesus. (Lk 9:23; Pro 3:5-6)
 - *Ask yourself...* Which decision honors Jesus as Lord?

BEFORE YOU MAKE A MAJOR DECISION...

1. DO YOU HAVE THE LORD'S PEACE? Become aware of whether you "have a peace about it" or not. (Col 3:15)
2. SEEK GODLY COUNSEL. Invite trusted mature believers who aren't emotionally invested in getting the answer you want—to speak into the decision. (Pro 15:22)
3. BE AWARE OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES. One way God reveals His will is by engineering circumstances. He opens doors and closes others. (Ac 16:6-10)
4. CHECK IT AGAINST GOD'S WORD. God will never lead you into something that contradicts Scripture. (Psa 119:105)
5. PRAY ABOUT IT. Ask for wisdom—not merely for God to approve what you already want. (Jas 1:5)
6. SLOW DOWN. Don't allow excitement, fear, pressure, or urgency to make the decision for you. Seek God. (Pro 19:2)
7. COUNT THE COST. Every "yes" comes with something attached. Ask: What will this require of my time, money, relationships, church involvement, and generosity toward the mission at hand? (Lk 14:28)
8. CHECK YOUR MOTIVES. Ask yourself: Why do I want this? Is it greed? Fear? Status? Comfort? Pride? (Pro 16:2)
9. BE WILLING TO WALK AWAY. Before asking God what He wants, surrender your preferred answer. If following Jesus means saying NO to something you really want, be prepared to say no. (Lk 14:26-27)



GOING DEEPER

Go through this note sheet with your Growth Group and/or your family at the dinner table. Bring this note sheet to your work or school and discuss it with someone over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses. Pray with one another.

1. What major decision are you currently facing—or expect to face in the near future?
2. What questions do you ask when making a major decision? Which questions might you be neglecting?
3. How could something good and completely permissible still hinder your relationship with Jesus?
4. Think about a decision you made in the past. Did it ultimately help or hinder your relationship with Jesus?
5. What does "undivided devotion to the Lord" look like practically in your present season of life?
6. How can you tell the difference between something you really want and something the Lord wants for you?
7. What role should peace, godly counsel, circumstances, the Word, and prayer play in making major decisions?
8. What is one decision you need to place completely under the lordship of Jesus right now—and what would surrendering it to Him look like?