

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	Six Positive Principles for Proper Practice
SERMON REFERENCE:	1 Corinthians 6:12-10:33
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1744

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Today's message will share some principles that will help you make the moral decisions of life.
- b) There are some great eternal standards of right and wrong that have been set by Almighty God and settled by the Word of God.
 - i) People come and go, but the Ten Commandments are here to stay.
- c) God has given His Word, but there are many issues that are not settled by the Ten Commandments.
 - i) This is because the Bible is not primarily a rule book.
 - ii) The Bible is primarily a guide book.
 - (1) The Bible is not so much a book of minute laws as it is a book of great principles.
 - (a) If the Bible were a book of minute laws, then it would be so large that we could not carry it with us.
 - (i) There would be so many issues and subjects that we would have to look up that we could not carry the Bible as we do now.
 - (b) If the Bible were a book of minute laws, then what would relate to one age would not relate to another age.
 - (i) But principles can apply to the first century as well as the twenty-first century.
 - (c) If the Bible were merely a book of rules and not principles, then we could find loopholes in laws; but we can't find loopholes in principles.
- d) A person who just simply tries to live by the rules but not by the principles will always try to figure out a way to bend the rules to do what they want to do.
- e) In our passage of Scripture today, the Apostle Paul was writing to some very immature people, the Corinthians.
 - i) Paul said that he had to treat them like little children and immature babies because they were wanting to live by rules and not by principles.
 - (1) Those who are mature live by certain principles; rules are needed for children.
- f) Today's message will share six positive principles for proper practice that come right out of the book of 1 Corinthians.

2) THE PRINCIPLE OF EXPEDIENCY (1 CORINTHIANS 6:12)

- a) How do you decide whether or not you should do a certain thing?
 - i) Ask yourself, not is it lawful, but is it expedient?
- b) The word "expedient" means something that brings you to your goal, to your destination.
 - i) Every Christian should have some God-given goals.
 - (1) We should have a holy ambition in our lives.
- c) We can tell whether a thing is right or wrong for us by answering this question:

- i) Does it bring me to my appointed goal, or does it hinder me?
 - (1) Is this activity an anchor that keeps me out of God’s harbor, or is it something that propels me toward my God-given goal?
 - d) We need to know where we are going.
 - i) God has laid His hand upon us.
 - ii) This was the great goal of the Apostle Paul.
 - iii) If you have a philosophy for your life, if you have some God-given ambitions and goals, then many things, for you, will be settled.
 - (1) There will be some things that you won’t do simply because they don’t reach your God-given goal.

- 3) THE PRINCIPLE OF ENSLAVEMENT (1 CORINTHIANS 6:12)
 - a) To “be brought under the power” means to be enslaved.
 - b) The Lord Jesus came to set us free.
 - i) John 8:36
 - c) Anything other than Jesus Christ that enslaves us is wrong for us.
 - i) A person who is not a Christian may think that he is not enslaved, but he is.
 - (1) John 8:34
 - (2) The unsaved person is free to do what he wants, but he’s not free to do as he ought.
 - (3) He is free to choose, but he’s not free to choose the consequences of his choice.
 - ii) By that perfect enslavement to His sovereignty, Jesus Christ sets us free in every other area.
 - d) Are you a free person, or has something enslaved you?
 - i) Many people are enslaved by pornography, lust, nicotine, caffeine, television, sports, appetite, etc.
 - e) 1 Corinthians 6:12
 - f) No person is fully free who drags his chain with him.
 - g) In Jesus, we are to be set free.

- 4) THE PRINCIPLE OF EXAMPLE (1 CORINTHIANS 8:8-13)
 - a) In this passage of Scripture, the Apostle Paul was living in a pagan society in Corinth.
 - i) Many people there were practicing idol worship.
 - (1) They would take the very best of the sheep, oxen and goats, and sacrifice them to these idol gods.
 - ii) They would then take that meat that had been sacrificed to the idols and bring it to the pagan meat market.
 - (1) That meat would be sold because it was the best, and it was the lowest price.
 - iii) Many Christians said that it was good stewardship to go down the pagan meat market and buy that meat because it was the very best meat (it was

- nutritious and not contaminated in any way), and they were saving money.
- iv) Other people believed that it was wrong to eat something that had been used in devil worship, that had been offered to idols.
 - v) The Apostle Paul said that there was nothing wrong with the meat itself.
 - (1) Paul did not give them a rule but a principle.
 - (a) He gave them the principle of example.
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 8:9
 - (a) He said that eating the meat would not make a person any better or worse, but don't do it if it causes someone else to stumble.
 - b) 1 Corinthians 8:1
 - i) As you go through life, don't let your head run away with your heart.
 - (1) Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
 - (2) We're to operate by love.
 - c) There are some things we don't do, not because we think we will be harmed, but because in doing them, someone else would be harmed.
 - i) Someone else would be made to stumble.
 - ii) It is very selfish to ask whether or not a thing will hurt only us.
 - d) Romans 14:13
 - i) We are not to judge others, and we are not to do anything that would cause someone else to stumble.
 - e) Romans 14:21
 - i) This verse settles the issue of social drinking.
 - (1) Drinking in moderation is not the answer to the alcohol problem; it is the cause of it.
 - (a) It is not the drunk but the person of distinction who encourages other people to drink.
 - (b) No one ever starts out to be an alcoholic.
 - (2) Some people are looking for a loophole and may try to use Jesus' miracle at the wedding of Cana as a reason to decide to drink.
 - (a) John 2:1-11
 - (i) We don't know what kind of "wine" this was.
 - 1. It is a generic word which simply means "drink."
 - 2. It does not necessarily mean that it was intoxicating.
 - ii) Instead of looking for a loophole, we should live by principle not to do anything that will cause someone else to stumble.
- 5) THE PRINCIPLE OF EDIFICATION (1 CORINTHIANS 19:23)
- a) "To edify" means "to build up."
 - i) Everything we do is either building us up or tearing us down.
 - b) We need to ask ourselves this question about anything that we do:
 - i) Does this build me up, or does it pull me down?
 - (1) We should ask this question of every movie we watch, every program we enter into, every friendship, every conversation, etc.

- (a) A real friend is someone who makes you a better person.
 - c) Entertainment is legitimate.
 - i) The word “recreation” literally means “re-creation.”
 - ii) True entertainment relaxes, refreshes, renews and restores.
 - (1) It re-creates, and we need that.
 - (2) As churches and families, we need to help kids have legitimate recreation that builds character.
 - iii) But there is a type of so-called entertainment that debases and degrades.
 - (1) Most of today’s television sitcoms deal with sex, alcohol, drugs, abortion and sodomy.
 - (a) In this context, holy things are being laughed at.
 - (b) The devil knows that what he can get us to laugh at will be very hard for us to ever take seriously again.
 - (i) We have a generation today that is laughing at what God has condemned.
 - (2) We watch certain things that do not build us up.
 - (a) It doesn’t refresh, restore or relax us; instead, it degrades and debilitates us.
 - (b) It drags us down.
 - d) The Apostle Paul said that some things may be lawful, but they don’t edify.
- 6) THE PRINCIPLE OF EXALTATION (1 CORINTHIANS 10:31)
- a) We need to ask whether or not this thing will exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b) In this passage of Scripture, Paul was talking about daily life.
 - i) Whatever we do, we should do all to the glory of God.
 - c) Everything we do either honors or dishonors the Lord.
 - i) Every conversation.
 - ii) Every friendship.
 - iii) Every vacation.
 - iv) Every business transaction.
 - v) The way we dress.
 - d) Is God glorified by what I’m doing?
 - e) Colossians 3:17
- 7) THE PRINCIPLE OF EVANGELISM (1 CORINTHIANS 10:32-33)
- a) What determines how I’m going to live?
 - i) Anything that keeps me from bringing someone else to Jesus Christ is wrong for me.
 - b) In this passage, the Apostle Paul is not saying that he would compromise his convictions, but that he would not offend and would try to be as pleasant as he could be so that many might be saved.
 - c) We should be moving every person we meet closer to Jesus Christ.

- i) We should not do anything, say anything, give anything, buy anything, go anywhere, eat anything, or drink anything that keeps us from somehow bringing people closer to Jesus Christ.
- ii) This is a guiding principle.
- d) What do people think of when they think of you?
 - i) We should desire that others know that the most important thing in life to us is the Lord Jesus Christ.

8) CONCLUSION

- a) A person who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ or someone who is an immature Christian will be looking for little rules because they want to find the loopholes in laws.
- b) If we as Christians will take these six principles and live by them, then one day when we meet the Lord Jesus, we will hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."
 - i) Matthew 25:21
- c) No one can behave himself into Heaven.
 - i) The only way you will go to Heaven is by repenting of your sins and receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- d) The Lord Jesus carried your sins to the cross, He died there for you, paid your sin debt, and rose again.
 - i) Your sin has been paid for by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.
- e) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ today.
 - i) Pray to Him, asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16