

## The Corinthian Grid

*An exercise that looks at Scripture to establish a way to deal with the “gray areas” in the Christian Life*

Do you often wonder how God feels about drinking, smoking, music, relationships, chewing? tobacco, drugs, kissing, bars, thoughts, speech, and other areas of your life? Many times, we are tempted to classify these areas in a category sometimes referred to as “gray areas.” Gray is a combination of two totally opposite and distinct colors: black and white. Since gray falls somewhere between black and white in color, and is neither clearly black nor white, we tend to categorize areas that lack clarity as gray. This causes us to be unsure of ourselves in these areas and easily influenced by others. A person who does not have clarity from God’s word in these areas is a person who is “tossed here and there by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14).

On the other hand, God is a God of *truth* and *clarity*. He is not a “gray” God and does not want His children to fall to deceit through a lack of clarity. That is why He gives us His written word from which we can discover unchanging principles on which we can structure our lives. We can find principles from God’s word that apply to every area of our lives. God gives us these principles so that we can have confidence in our relationship with God and develop our own personal convictions in all areas.

To help you develop your own personal convictions, I have drawn up a grid made up of general principles from 1 Corinthians. They were dealing with the same questions then that you deal with now. Pick out a specific area of your life and take it through the grid. Look up the passage and then meditate on the principle. Remember to read the passage in context by reading the verses before and after the passage. Finally, apply the principle to the specific area by asking yourself the application question. Be honest with yourself and with God and allow Him to form your heart in the same mold as Christ’s.

### **1 Corinthians 8:9,13; Mark 9:42**

*Principle:* Do not cause others to stumble.

*Application:* Does this cause others to stumble?

### **1 Corinthians 6:12; Galatians 6:8**

*Principle:* Do things that will profit my relationship with Christ.

*Application:* Does this profit my relationship with Christ?

**1 Corinthians 6:12**

*Principle:* Do not allow yourself to be mastered by anything except Christ.

*Application:* Could this master me and get me in its control? Could I be totally content without this in my life?

**1 Corinthians 9:19, 22-23a; 10:33**

*Principle:* Do all things for the sake of reaching others with Christ.

*Application:* Does this help or hinder me reaching others with Christ?

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

*Principle:* Do everything for the glory of God.

*Application:* Does this glorify God?

**1 Corinthians 6:18; Mark 9:43-47**

*Principle:* Do not put yourself in situations of obvious temptation.

*Application:* Does this tempt me against God's Will?