

Trinity Men's Conference 2024

KEYNOTE
SESSIONS

Notes and Outlines

Biblical Masculinity: “What do the Scriptures say?”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
Genesis 1:27

Having a biblical worldview must encompass one’s view of men and women. Basic beliefs about what each sex should be like greatly impacts our own gender evaluations as well as the shaping of our boys and girls, the education of our young men and women, the success of our marriages, the effectiveness of the Church in the world, and even the stability of our society.

1. What Is Masculinity?
 - a. Reasons for various opinions
 - b. A reliable standard is needed (God’s Truth Will Lead the Way)¹
 - c. Basic characteristics of masculinity
 - i. *Man was created in God’s image* (Gen. 1:27).
 - ii. *Man was created a worshipper* (Rom. 1:21-25; Jn. 4:23).
 - iii. *Since the Fall, man has been a sinner by nature and by choice* (Rom. 3:12, 23).
 - iv. *Man is in need of God’s saving grace* (Jn. 3:16; Ti. 3:4-7).
 - v. *Man was not created self-sufficient but needing God and others* (Jn. 15:5; Acts 17:28; Gal. 5:14; Col 1:16; Heb. 4:16).
 - vi. *Man was created to be different from woman* (Gen. 1:27; Mat 19:4; 1 Cor 11:8-9; Eph 5:22-33).
 - d. Characteristics of the Perfect Man—Jesus Christ

¹ Webster’s Dictionary: **Masculine (mas-kyoo-lin)** 1 a: male b: having qualities appropriate to or usually associated with a man.

Qualities of the Perfect Man

ATTITUDES	ACTIONS	REFERENCES
Eternal Mindset	Did the will and work of the Father Not working towards his own success/desires	Jn. 4:34; 5:30 Jn. 8:28-29
	Was filled with the Spirit (Word) Not the world's wisdom/ways	Lk. 4:1, 14
	Gave the gospel to others Not temporary pleasures or relief	Mk. 1:14-15 Jn. 3-4
	Lived a holy, obedient life Not sinfulness	1 Pt. 2:22 Phil. 2:8
Love/Understanding	Sought to meet needs of others Not uncaring/self-focused	Lk. 4:18-21 Mt. 4:23
	Sacrificed self and own desires Not self-preserving/selfish	Phil. 2:6-8 Lk. 22:42
	Was gentle whenever possible Not harsh/demanding	Mt. 11:29 Jn. 21:15-19
Zeal/Courage/Confidence (because of God and His promises)	Led the Disciples and others Not a follower when he shouldn't be	Lk. 9:6 Jn. 6:2
	Showed initiative when He should have Not waiting for someone else	Lk. 6:12-16 Mk. 6:34-44
	Confronted when necessary Not a compromiser/man-pleaser	Mk. 11:15-18 Mt. 23:1-36
	Was decisive according to God's revealed will Not wishy-washy or afraid	Mt. 4:1-11 Mk. 8: 31-38
Conscientiousness	Fulfilled responsibilities Not irresponsible	Jn. 17:4 Jn. 19:30
	Was diligent Not lazy or a quitter	Jn. 5:17 Heb. 12:2-3
Humility	Served and listened to others in His leadership Not proudly lording it over others	Jn. 13:12-17 Jn. 6:5-10
	Glorified another (the Father) Not greedy for attention or recognition	Jn. 8:50,54 Jn. 17:1,4

e. Characteristics drawn from the qualifications of male leadership in the Church (1 Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9).

f. Role characteristics a man must excel in

1. *Leader (Matt. 20:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:3, 7-9; Eph. 5:23-24; Phil. 2:5-8)*

2. *Lover (1 Corinthians 13; Eph. 5:1-2)*

3. *Protector (John 10:11-13; Eph. 5:26-29)*

4. *Provider (Psalm 23:1; 2 Thess 3:6-12; 1 Tim. 5:8)*

2. What tends to keep one from growing in these qualities and fulfilling his God given roles?

3. What are counterfeit expressions of masculinity?

a. Machismo or Authoritarianism

b. Passive or Effeminate men

4. Suggestions and helps for change

Conclusion

So, what does it mean to be a *real (biblical) man*?

Masculinity (mas-kyoo-lin-i-ty): The pursuit and possession of a redeemed life and perspective, growing in and reflecting Christlike character, enhanced by qualities consistent with the distinguishing male roles of leading, loving, protecting, and providing—all for the glory of God.

FURTHER READING

Benton, John. *Gender Questions*. England: Evangelical Press, 2000.

MacArthur, John, Jr. *Different By Design*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1994.

Mueller, Chris. *Let the Men be Men*. Three Sixteen Publishing. 2022.

Piper, John and Wayne Grudem. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1991.

Scott, Stuart W. *The Exemplary Husband*. Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing, 2000.

Scott, Stuart W. *Biblical Manhood: Masculinity, Leadership and Decision Making*. Bemidji, MN: Focus Publishing,

Strauch, Alexander. *Equal Yet Different*. Littleton, CO: Lewis and Roth Publishers, 1999.

Watson, Thomas. *The Godly Man's Picture*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1992.

Masculinity Worksheet

Personal Life & Walk with Christ (Spiritual Disciplines) — Areas of integrity, Areas of faithfulness									
	Wife (If Married)	Children (If a Parent)	Family/Relatives	Church Family	At Work	Discipleship	Evangelism		
LEAD									
	Wife (If Married)	Children (If a Parent)	Family/Relatives	Church Family	At Work	Discipleship	Evangelism		
LOVE									
	Wife (If Married)	Children (If a Parent)	Family/Relatives	Church Family	At Work	Discipleship	Evangelism		
PROVIDE									
	Wife (If Married)	Children (If a Parent)	Family/Relatives	Church Family	At Work	Discipleship	Evangelism		
PROTECT									
	Wife (If Married)	Children (If a Parent)	Family/Relatives	Church Family	At Work	Discipleship	Evangelism		

Leadership: “What do the Scriptures say?”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
Genesis 1:27

1. What Is Leadership?

- A. Reasons for various opinions (review)
- B. A reliable standard is needed (review)
- C. Characteristics drawn from the qualifications of male leadership in the Church (review) 1 Tim 4:16

We can gain more insight into the kind of men we should be from what God has said concerning male leadership in the church. In the Scriptures we find two very precise lists of positive and negative qualities by which leaders are to be measured: one found in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and the other found in Titus 1:6-9.

A Godly Man

MUST BE	MUST NOT BE
Above reproach (<i>anegkletos, anepileptos</i>): blameless, not able to be accused, having a good reputation	A drunkard (<i>paroinos</i>): not addicted to strong drink
A one-woman man (<i>andra</i>)	Violent (<i>plēktēs</i>): violent, quickly angered, explosively angry
Sober-minded (<i>nēphalios</i>): temperate, alert, clear-headed, watchful	Quarrelsome (<i>amachos</i>): contentious, argumentative
Self-controlled (<i>sōphrōn</i>): in control of thinking, emotions and passions	A lover of money (<i>aischrokerdes</i>): covetous, greedy for money, materialistic
Respectable (<i>kosmios</i>): orderly, in time, in responsibilities and behavior, not chaotic	Arrogant (self-willed) rather than a steward (<i>authadas</i>): pushing his own ideas, desires, goals or gain
Hospitable (<i>philō xenos</i>): welcoming to others, loves strangers, serves others	Double-tongued (<i>dilogos</i>): saying two different things to people, gossiping
Gentle (<i>epieikēs</i>): considerate, gracious, patient, kind in dealing with others	Quick tempered (<i>orgilos</i>): inclined to anger habitually, soon angry
Managing his own household well (<i>proistēmi</i>): governs, presides over, has authority over, is faithful	

to lead spiritually, cares for, protects; has children who are not riotous or insubordinate; oversees and/or fulfills affairs of the home	
A lover of good (<i>philagathos</i>): loves virtue and good men	
Upright (<i>dikaaios</i>): just, upholds righteousness	
Dignified (<i>semnos</i>): serious, stately, not foolish or silly	
Holding firm to the Word (<i>antechomai</i>): learns and upholds sound doctrine, holds to like glue, able to exhort and convict	
Holy (<i>hosios</i>): pure, devout	

D. Role characteristics a man must excel in

It is only by exploring God's intention concerning gender roles that we can know for sure how we should specifically differ from women and display our uniqueness. Herein lies the key to our distinctive qualities. If we understand from Scripture what God intended for a man to *do*, then it is much easier to determine what characteristics must be maximized.

1. *Leader (Matt. 20:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:3, 7-9; Eph. 5:23-24; Phil. 2:5-8)*

2. *The many sins that will keep a man from possessing these qualities and fulfilling his God given roles. (review)*

3. *What is leadership in the home?*
 - A. Leadership in submission to God with God-given limited authority
 - B. Leadership as a 'Shepherd-Leader'

C. Leadership as a 'Servant-Leader' (Matt. 20:26-28; Mark 10:45; John 13:13-17)

D. Leadership in action

1. Know your own God-glorifying goals

2. Know the areas to oversee

a. Her spiritual welfare (Eph. 5:25-27)

b. Her decision-making (Col. 1:9-10)

c. Her relationships (Titus 2:3-5)

d. Her ministries (1 Pet. 4:10)

e. Her physical well-being (Eph. 28-29)

3. Know when to act

a. Make sure you have adequate information (Prov. 18:13, 17).

b. Pray for biblical wisdom (James 1:5)

c. Think through the proper approach

d. Have the right goals (1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor 5:9).

e. If at all possible, remember to communicate your reasons and goals (God's glory and the other's good) when you must go against what your wife wants or believes is best (Phil. 2:3-4; Mark 10:32-40; 1 Cor 13:5).

E. Leading an unsaved wife (1 Cor. 7:12-16)

F. Know when to stand strong (1 Cor 16:13; Gal. 1:10)

G. Know how to make God-honoring decisions (Ps. 1; 19:7; Col 1:9-11; 2 Pet. 1:19)

Conclusion

Masculinity Worksheet

Personal Life & Walk with Christ (Spiritual Disciplines) — Areas of integrity, Areas of faithfulness									
	Wife (If Married)	Children (If a Parent)	Family/Relatives	Church Family	At Work	Discipleship	Evangelism		
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	Wife (If Married)	Children (If a Parent)	Family/Relatives	Church Family	At Work	Discipleship	Evangelism		
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PROVIDE									
	Wife (If Married)	Children (If a Parent)	Family/Relatives	Church Family	At Work	Discipleship	Evangelism		
PROTECT									
	Wife (If Married)	Children (If a Parent)	Family/Relatives	Church Family	At Work	Discipleship	Evangelism		

Decisions: What do the Scriptures say?

(How to Know and Do God's Will)

1. Behind the Scenes (beliefs and practices)

- A. The Importance of Knowing and Doing God's Will (Deut 29:29; Ps 19:7-14; 119:105; 143:10; Isa 46:9-10; Mat 12:50; Eph 1:11; 5:17ff; Col 1:9-14; 2 Tim 3:15-17; Heb 10:36; 13:20-21; 2 Pt 1:3ff; 1 Jn 2:17; 5:14-15)
- B. Beliefs about it and Current Practices ¹

2. The Vital Place of Study, Meditation and Prayer (Accurately Interpreting God's Revealed Will)

A. Principles:² (With a Redemptive Christo-telic Story Line for God's glory)

- 1. Literal Principle
- 2. Historical Principle
- 3. Grammatical Principle
- 4. Synthesis Principle
- 5. Practical Principle

B. Key Definitions (two aspects of God's Will)

- 1. God's Will
 - a. God's Decretive (Sovereign) Will
 - b. God's Preceptive (Revealed) Will



¹ Dr. William Barrick discusses this in his journal article on *Hermeneutics and General Revelation*, The Master's Theological Journal, Spring, 1998.

² John MacArthur, *How to Get the Most from God's Word*.

2. Other Terms

- a. Wisdom
- b. Mysticism
- c. Experience

3. What not to do

(Examining Popular Ways to Know and Do God's Will (Methods and Motives, some avoid using; others, be cautious of; and the rest do not see as normative for Christians today)

- A. Misusing the Bible
- B. Personal Advice (without checking it out)
- C. Circumstances / Results
- D. Setting Up Conditions (Fleeces)
- E. Opened and Closed Doors
- F. Ideas, Inner Feelings, Desires, and Impressions
- G. "Led by the Spirit"
- H. An Audible Voice
- I. Misusing Prayer
- J. Inner Peace
- K. Devices
- L. Signs
- M. Isolation
- N. Dreams
- O. "Waiting" on the Lord

- P. Conscience
- Q. Reason (relying on)
- R. Pseudo Faith
- S. Fasting
- T. The “Call” (all subjective & experienced based)
- U. Small Group (“...where two or three are gathered...”)
- V. Prophecy (modern day practice)
- W. Over analysis (of the unimportant)
- X. Etc.

4. Session Four: What to do

(Examining a Biblical Way to Know and Do God’s Will: The Biblical Principles and a Suggested Method)

A. Prerequisites for Biblical Decision-Making

1. Be rightly related to Christ by responding to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in context (2 Cor. 5:14-21)
2. Pursue a life of worshipping and glorifying God (John 4:23-24; 2 Cor. 5:9; Phil. 1:21; 3:10-14; Col 1:9-12; 1 Cor 10:31)
3. Recognize God’s sovereignty over all (Ps. 115:3,8; Eph. 1:11; Eph. 5:17; James 4:13-16; Prov. 16:9; Rom. 8:28-29). God’s sovereignty works in sync with (never apart from) all His other attributes (e.g. Goodness, Wisdom, etc.).
4. Take responsibility for your choices (Ezk 18). God will not obey for you. He will hold you responsible (2 Cor 5:9-10).

B. Methodology and Process (these all interrelate).

1. SUBMIT... Humbly pray for wisdom as you gather data.
 - a. Continually have a humble, yielded, and dependent will before God (Rom. 12:1-2). This would be reflected in the prayer

request “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done....” (Mt.6:10, Luke 22:42). Remember that knowing and doing God’s Will is “so that we might walk worthily as unto the Lord...” Col 1:9-14

- b. Continually pray for wisdom – for the Spirit to assist you in bringing Scripture to apply to the situation (Jas. 1:5).
- c. Gather as much factual data as you can to make a wise decision (Prov.18:13). The amount of time spent on this process often depends on the weight of the decision (e.g. Jesus choosing the twelve -Luke 6:12).

2. COMMANDS... Study any direct commands in Scripture concerning this particular issue (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15-17). This may take on the form of positive commands or the form of prohibitions. (Make use of a Bible concordance, Topical Bible (with caution), and other Bible reference books.)

3. PRINCIPLES... Study the applicable principles in Scripture concerning this issue (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15-17). Wisdom is at its purest in Scripture and then starts to rely more on human reasoning, advice and experience after that (obviously less reliable). This is one of the most neglected areas of decision making. (many of these questions below are from *The Discipline of Grace*, Jerry Bridges, 213)

1. WALK WITH CHRIST

- Is this something I can thank God for? (Rom. 14:6; 1 Cor. 10:30; Col. 3:17)
- Is this something that will glorify God? (1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 5:9)
- Is this following the example of Christ? (Rom. 15:7-8; 1 Cor. 11:1; 1 John 2:6)
- Is this beneficial? Does it promote my spiritual life?
- Is this a practice that over time will tend to master me? Will it stimulate a desire that will be difficult to control?
- Is this an occasion where my “flesh” (sinfulness) is seeking to indulge itself? (Gal. 5:13)

2. INFLUENCE ON OTHERS

- Is this worth imitating? (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 4:9)
- Are you not seeking outside counsel due to wanting what you want? (Prov 18:1-2; 24:6)
- Is it self-serving at the expense of someone else’s benefit? (Rom. 15:1-2; 1 Cor. 10:33; Gal. 5:13; Phil. 2:1-4)
- Will my choice affect others around me? If so, in what way?

- Is it constructive? Will it promote the spiritual well-being of other believers if they engage in this practice that is permissible for me?”
3. NEED
- Is there a God-given need for me to do this? (1 Jn.3:17-18, Acts 6:1-6, 2 Cor.2:12-13)
4. OPPORTUNITY
- Is there an opportunity to do this? Does God appear to be orchestrating circumstances (Providence) to provide you with the opportunity to do this? (2 Cor.2:12-13, Gal.6:10)
 - ii. DESIRES... Affirm that your desires are God-honoring (Ps. 37:4; John 15:7).
 - What do I want (“wish”) to do? Will it bring glory to God? (1 Cor. 7:36,39, 10:24,31)
5. If you still can’t decide, then HOLD:
- a. Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:25 (“holding principle” = if it involves the troubled conscience - you might possibly sin in moving ahead)
 - b. Possibly go back and gather more data – both in the initial data gathering or in the commands and principles of Scripture.
6. DECIDE... Humbly and dependently make your decision and trust God (Prov.16:9, Acts 16:7)

5. Practically Applied

A. Key Issues within Life and Marriage

- Further Education
- Choosing a church
- Choosing where to serve at church
- Vocation Choices
- Schooling Choices
- Singleness or Marriage
- Renting vs buying a house
- When to have children
- Relocation (Job, Church, Family)
- Birth Control (non-abortive)
- Finances (spending, saving and giving)
- Buying a car
- Caring for Parent(s)

- Dealing with In-laws
- Transitioning to being an in-law
- Transitioning to “empty nest”
- Parenting adult children
- Wayward children
- Dealing with chronic illness
- Etc.

B. Decision Making Principles (sample)

- Stewardship
 - Finances (2 Cor 8-9; avoiding debt – Ps 37:21; Prv 22:7)
 - Time (Ps 90:12; Eph 5:16)
 - Priorities (Martha and Mary, Luke 10:38-42; Jer 2:13; Rev 2:5)
 - Rest and Margin (Ex 20:8-11; Prv 21:20; 22:3; Paul in Acts – weeks to months in between the verses)
 - Exercise (Self-control like an athlete – 1 Cor 9:27)
 - Eating (Eccl 10:16-17; Col 2:16; 2 Thess 3:6-15; 1 Tim 4:3-5)
 - etc.
- Working
 - Created for (Ex 20:8-11)
 - Attitude while working (Col 3:17, 23-24)
 - Provision (1 Tim 5:8; Eph 5:29)
 - to give to others (Generosity – Eph 4:25; 1 Jn 3:17)
 - to save (Prov 6:6; 30:25)
- Relationship principles
 - Communication (Proverbs, Eph 4:25-32)
 - Conflict resolution (Rom 12:18; Eph 4:25-32)
 - Loving and serving (putting other’s interests before self – Phil 2:1-11)
 - Who to marry (as a Christian) – 1 Cor 7:29; 2 Cor 6:14
- Put off and put on principles (Eph 4:22-31; Col 3)
- Hospitality (commands and principles) – Heb 13:2; 1 Pt 4:9
- Self-control (1 Cor 9:27; Titus 2:11-14)
- Seek godly counsel (Prv 15:22)
- Being humble and teachable (Ps 32:8-9; Ps 99; Phil 2:1-11)
- Honor and respecting others (Rom 12:10)
- Contentment (Ex 20:17; Mat 6:25; Phil 4:11-12; Heb 13:5)
- Walk on earth with eternal focus (Matt 6:33; 2 Cor 4:16-18; Heb 12:1-3)
- Etc.

Case Study: “Should we buy a pet?”

Further Resources

Jay Adams

- *A Call to Discernment* (Eugene: Harvest House, 1987)
- *What to do on Thursday* (Hackettstown, NJ: Timeless Texts, 1995)
- *A Christian's Guide to Guidance* (Woodruff, SC: Timeless Texts, 1998)

Kevin DeYoung, *Just Do Something* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009).

Gary Friesen, *Decision-Making and the Will of God* (Portland: Multnomah Press, 1980, 2004) Revised and Updated Version

Gary Gilley, *Is That You Lord?* (Webster, NY: Evangelical Press, 2007).

Arthur Johnson, *Faith Misguided: Exposing the Dangers of Mysticism* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1988).

R.B.Kuiper, "Pitfalls in Finding God's Will for Your Life," *New Horizons*, (January, 2004).

John MacArthur

- a. *Ashamed of the Gospel* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1993)
- b. *Found: God's Will* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1978)
- c. *Our Sufficiency in Christ* (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1991)
- d. *Reckless Faith* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1994)

Gary Meadors, *Decision Making God's Way: A New Model for Knowing God's Will* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2003).

Jim Petty, *Step by Step: Divine Guidance for Ordinary Christians* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1999).

Stuart Scott, *Biblical Manhood* (Focus Publishers, 2010)

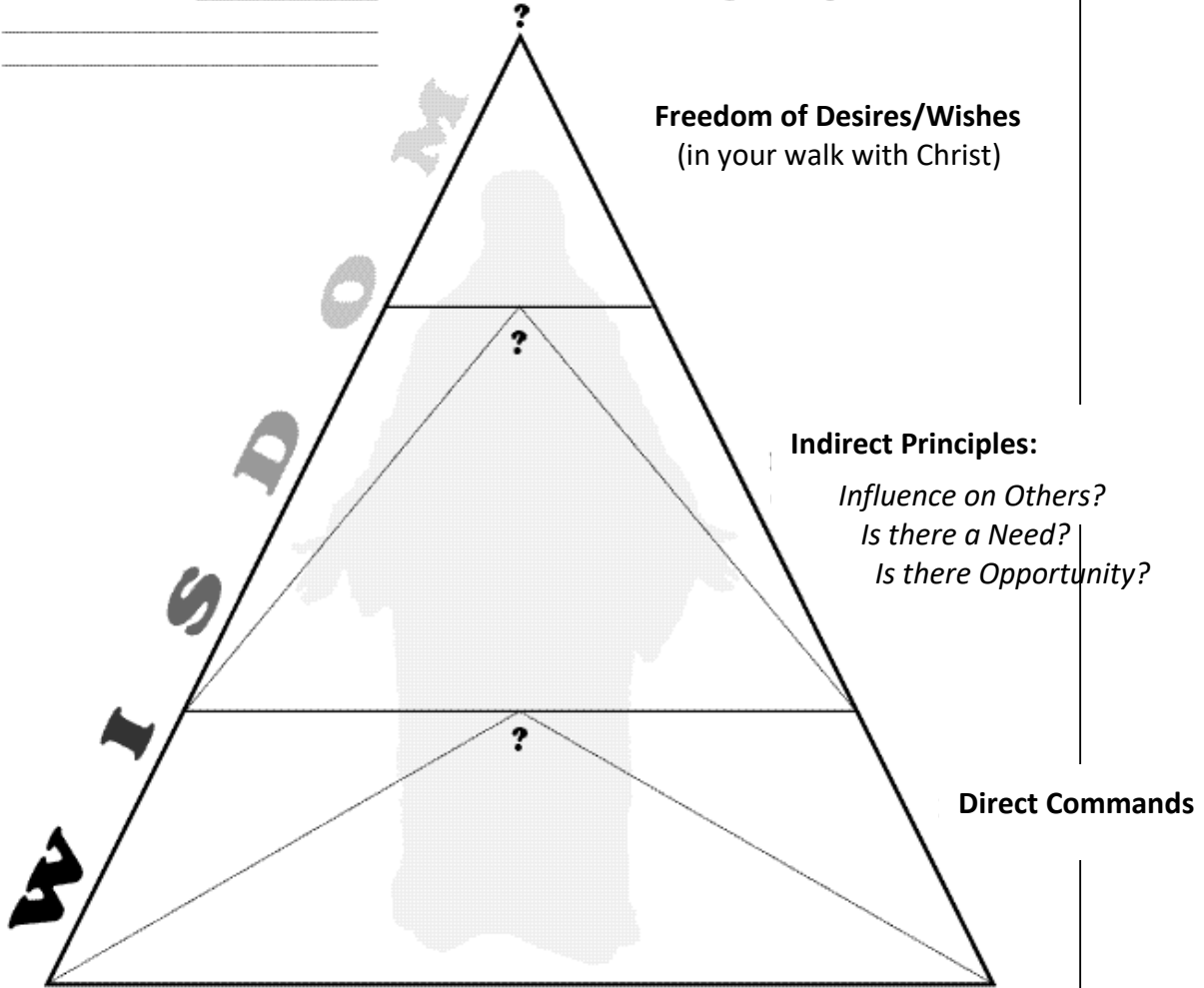
- *A Study of Decision Making God's Way* (unpublished D.Min project for Covenant Theological Seminary, 1996).

David Swavely, *Decisions, Decisions: How (and How Not) to Make Them* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003)

Biblical Decision Making

The Decision: _____

"Holding Principle" Rom. 14:23



Attitude: Prayerfully, humbly, to please Christ

Any Factual Data (Prov. 18:13): _____

