



Passin' It On

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Matthew 5:14-16; John 17:1-4 Message from Pastor Martin Hawley April 9, 2017

The Bottom Line: When evaluating an option, ask, “What would be most honoring to God?”

Introduction:

We are talking about the decisions that we are forced to make in life that we really do not want to make. These can be defining moments. In the emotional context that we find ourselves, we often do not know what hangs in the balance. We often do not know how the decision will turn out.

In this series, I am giving you four questions to ask when faced with the surprise decision of life:

1. Am I being completely honest with myself?
2. What story do I want to tell?
3. Is there a tension that needs my attention?

Before we get to the fourth and final question of this series, we need to understand that the first three are somewhat common sense. They apply to everybody regardless of faith and theology. They are all found in and supported by the Bible, but they are not inherently spiritual or theistic.

However, the fourth one is different! It assumes faith. It assumes accountability to and gratitude to God. It assumes that there is more to this life than this life.

You were not created to receive glory for your accomplishments. You were created to reflect it/redirect it/share it.

The best way to handle praise and recognition is not to wrap your fingers around it but to pass it on.

Jesus followers take that one step further. We believe our talent, health, and opportunities come from God. So, when we do something praiseworthy, we are quick to say, “Thank you, but ultimately, God gets credit for anything good.”

Question 4: What would be most honoring to God?

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in

you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).”

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, as a lamp is put on display for all to see let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).”

“After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: ‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the **work** (John 17:1, 4).’”

What would be most honoring to God?

This is a dangerous question.

1. This one goes beyond right and wrong.
2. This question takes us out on the edge of normal.
3. This question best positions us to be used by God in an unusual way.
4. It's not for everybody.

You are too small to live for.

Conclusion:

You were created to be a reflector, not a receiver.

You were made to say, “Take my life and let it be all for you and for your glory.”

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.**
- Memorize: Question #4.**
- Try this for three days: What would be most honoring to God?**
- Come Back Next Week for Easter Sunday. New Three-Part Series: *Bad Boys of Easter***