

# Gray Areas: Deciding What To Do (Part 3)

(Galatians 5:13-18)

## Introduction.

- A) The Bible is very clear on issues that are foundational truths of the Christian faith (holiness of God, compassion of God, grace, sinfulness of murder, lying, stealing, etc.). These issues are black and white.
- B) But what about the other areas like smoking cigarettes, social drinking, dancing, eating certain foods, entertainment choices, etc. These might be referred to as **gray areas**. In other words there is less clarity. That is not to say those behaviors or choices are approved, just not specifically addressed.
- C) **Gray areas** are practices, behaviors or moral issues that the Bible does not directly command, commend or forbid.
- D) Among Christians there is sharp disagreement on some of these gray areas.
- E) Galatia is the third church we will examine that had these same disagreements.
  - F) As Christians, the 613 specific commands of the Mosaic Law no longer govern our conduct (Romans 7:6, 10:14). Therefore, we must be careful not to pull some rule from the Mosaic Law to govern the gray areas that are not addressed with clarity.

Rather, choices, conducts, and lifestyles in these gray areas are to be governed by **principles** established in the Bible. That is, timeless truths that can be applied the many areas of life.
- F) Contextualize Galatians 5.
- F) Contextualize this sermon in the Gray Areas series.

## **I. Disagreement Over Christian Liberty (14:1)**

A) Divisive (v. 1-2, 13)

1) Legalism

2) License

B) Bitter (v. 15)

C) Destructive

## **II. Principles of Christian Liberty**

A) Flesh Principle (v. 13)

B) Spirit Principle (v. 16)

C) Temptation Principle (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

## **III. Applying The Gray Area Principles**

A) What is your attitude?

License?

Legalism?

Love?

B) What principle applies?

**A) Profit Principle (1 Cor. 10:23)**

(Question: Will it profit the cause of Christ?)

**B) Enhancement Principle (1 Cor. 10:24, 29, 32-33)**

(Question: Is it selfish or selfless.)

**C) Glorification (1 Cor. 10:30-31)**

(Question: Does it glorify God or does it place attention on us.)

**D) Stumbling Block Principle (Romans 14:13-14)**

(Question: Will it cause my brother to stop progressing in the faith or even abandon the faith?)

**E) Love Principle (Romans 14:15-18)**

(Question: Will it promote love within the body of Christ?)

**F) Peace Principle (Romans 14:19)**

(Question: Will it promote peace within the body of Christ?)

**G) Edification Principle (Romans 14:19)**

(Question: Will it encourage or discourage my brother in Christ?)

**H) Flesh Principle (Gal. 5:13)**

(Question: Does it enflame or is it born out of the flesh?)

**I) Spirit Principle (Gal. 6:16)**

(Question: Is this the result of the leading of the Holy Spirit?)

**J) Temptation Principle (I Thess. 5:22) \**

(Question: Will this tempt me to further sin?)

**C) How is this profitable to the Kingdom?**

***Apply this to social drinking and recreational gambling.***

## **Conclusion**