

How can we know what to do with areas where the Bible does not give black and white instructions? In his book *Chasing Elephants: Wrestling with the Gray Areas of Life*, author and speaker Brent Crowe outlines several questions to consider when deciding how to navigate the gray areas of life.

1. Is the decision within the moral will of God? Does the Bible already speak to the matter?
2. Is the decision being made in the attitude of Christ? (Romans 15:1-13)
3. Is the decision being made under the control of the flesh or the Holy Spirit? (Galatians 5:13-26)
4. Will the decision have a positive spiritual impact on self? (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23-24)
5. Will the decision addict or enslave? (1 Corinthians 6:12)
6. Is the decision consistent with the rule of Christian living? Am I serving others effectively by this decision? (Colossians 1:9-14; 3:17)
7. Will the decision hurt a fellow believer spiritually or set a spiritual deathtrap? (Romans 14:13)
8. Will the decision have a positive impact on fellow believers? (Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 10:23-24; Galatians 6:1-10)
9. Does the decision go against conscience? (Romans 14:14)
10. Will the decision disrupt fellowship or damage relationships within the community? (Romans 14:15)
11. Will the decision damage reputation? (1 Peter 2:12; 3:14-16)
12. Will the decision remove focus from the big picture of God's kingdom? (Romans 14:17-19)
13. Is the decision being made out of a selfish heart or offend? (Romans 14:20-21; 1 Corinthians 10:32)
14. Can the decision be imitated by others who understand their freedom? (1 Corinthians 10:33-11:1)
15. Is the decision being made in light of the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? (1 Corinthians 9:19-24; 10:33)
16. Will the decision glorify God and make a big deal about Jesus? (1 Corinthians 10:31; Galatians 6:11-16)