



## How Do I Make Good Life Choices?

*"I want to do it right! I just wish I knew where to start. I have made a lot of mistakes, some of them really big, stupid ones. I am sick of living like this. My life seems out of control. I'm ready now to do things differently. I want to make good life choices! Will God forgive me for what I have done? I just need some guidance on what that all means!"*

Even as a Christian, living in the world is extremely challenging. Sadly enough, most of us don't do very well in saying "no" to temptations. These enticements come in the form of lying, cheating, speaking poorly about someone, excessive drinking, eating disorders, sex outside of marriage, having an abortion and a multitude of other things. Couple this tension with the struggles we face because of our human flesh, and the lies that Satan is always trying to weave, and it's no wonder that it is difficult to make good life choices. It's clear that God hates all sin, because it keeps us from living life to the full. The good news is that we worship a God of second chances! (1 John 1:9)

God loves life! John 10:10 says, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* What does it mean to have life to the full? The full life God wants for us is far better than serving ourselves and living in excess. He wants us to be absolutely delighted about life: to laugh, to love, to enjoy friends and family and to thoroughly enjoy what God has made for us. The way to get pleasure from life is to put God in the middle of all we do, say and think. With God in the middle, life works. Without God in the middle, life is miserable.

One of the many life issues today is abortion. Why does God hate abortion? Because God created life and sees life as sacred, made in His image. Killing unborn babies is a sin, yet thousands of women choose each day to destroy life by killing their unborn child. In the five minutes it will take you to read this page, 12 babies will have been aborted in the United States. Satan and our selfish flesh tell us that it is our decision and that abortion is a quick solution. There is nothing quick and easy about abortion. The shame, guilt and regret of both the mother and the father for destroying their baby is overwhelming. The procedure is barbaric and will never be forgotten by the mother, especially when she finds the man she wants to marry and chooses to have children. As much as God hates abortion, He is ready to forgive those who have made that choice and truly want to repent.

God not only wants us to support and protect human life, but He also wants us to live life the way He created us to live it. Making good, life-giving choices begins with applying real biblical practices to our lives. For instance, how is your thought life? Would you like your thoughts posted up on a screen for everyone to see? Philippians 4:8 *"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things."* What about your eyes? Are you keeping your eyes on things that are glorifying, or on things that are taking your mind where it should not go? Needless to say, there are many different areas in our lives that need attention. God wants us to make good choices, so that we don't have to suffer adverse consequences and our relationship with Him can flourish.

Having someone in your life with whom you can be honest, and who will speak truth to you and hold you accountable to your faith and your behavior is a vital ingredient to becoming a person who lives well. Good life choices happen when we start to see the world, and ourselves, as God intended for us to be, and we move towards making those intentions a reality in every day life!