

Guidelines For Godly Living

Philippians 2:1-16

1

Guidelines For Godly Living

▶ **Always obey the plain commands or clear teaching of God's word ... Never do anything that contradicts the Bible.**

- cf. Acts 26:14; 19ff Paul could not kick against the goad.
- *2 Peter 3:16 "Some things hard to be understood ..."*

2

Guidelines For Godly Living

▶ **Always do that which you know to be right ... Never do that which is sinful in itself.**

- Some things are clearly wrong. 1 Corinthians 5:1ff; Ephesians 4:25ff 5:3; Galatians 5:19ff; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22
- Do not provide for these things. Romans 13:11-14
- Learn to flee. 2 Timothy 2:22; James 4:7; Genesis 39:7ff

3

Guidelines For Godly Living

▶ **Always act in good conscience ... Never violate your own conscience or cause someone else to violate his conscience.**

- Romans 14:23; 1 Corinthians 8; 1 Corinthians 10:29
- *1 John 3:20 "because if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."*
- Always maintain the possibility of being wrong. cf. Acts 23:1ff

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Guidelines For Godly Living

▶ **Always do that which encourages righteousness ... Never condone or do that which encourages wickedness or error.**

- Ephesians 4:15-16 Let people know I am opposed to what is done.
- *Ephesians 5:8ff "Have no fellowship with..."*
- *2 John 9-11*
- Do not consent with sinners. *Proverbs 1:10 "My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not."*
- Maintain a proper attitude. Galatians 4:16; Galatians 2:5
- "Everybody's doing it." cf. Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 4:3-4
- To know of another's guilt and do nothing is wrong. Ezekiel 3:17-21; Acts 20:26-27

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Guidelines For Godly Living

▶ **Always correct mistakes as soon as they are made ... Never allow mistakes to drag on ... It may become too late to correct them.**

- Matthew 5:23ff; Matthew 18:15ff Urgent to resolve problems immediately.

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always show respect for sacred things – Never regard sacred things in a light or flippant manner.**
- ▶ Matthew 6:9ff Our Father ...
Hallowed ...
 - *"I will extol thee, my God, O King: and I will bless thy name forever and ever"* (Psalms 145:1).
 - *"Holy and reverend is thy name"* (Psalms 111:9).
 - *"Sacred scriptures."* 2 Timothy 3:15

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always show respect for sacred things – Never regard sacred things in a light or flippant manner.**
- ▶ **God demands reverence.**
 - *"... Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground"* (Exodus 3:3-5).
 - *"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him"* (Psalms 89:7).
 - *"Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well pleasing to God with reverence and awe"* (Hebrews 12:28).

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always show respect for sacred things – Never regard sacred things in a light or flippant manner.**
- Evidence of irreverence toward God can be seen in our appearance when we worship God.
 - Matthew 15:18-20 *cf. (Proverbs 23:7) "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he"*
- Further evidence irreverence exists when we applaud and cheer in worship to God.
- *"Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one a thyself"* (Psalms 50:21); *cf. Acts 17:24ff; Revelation 4:8-11*
- Evidence of irreverence toward God can be seen in our language. "Oh God!, Jesus" Ephesians 4:29

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always have an open mind, Listen to the other person's view ... Never close your mind to the truth, from any source. cf. Matthew 13:15**
- ▶ James 1:19 *"But let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."*
 - Parent / Child relationship. cf. Ephesians 6:4

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always deal fairly and honestly with all men ... Never deal dishonestly or unfairly with any man, Friend or Foe. Certainly, deal fairly with God's word.**
- If you want to be what you ought to be honesty is essential. cf. Matthew 7:12
- *Romans 12:17 "Render to no man evil for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men."*
- 2 Corinthians 8:21; cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always maintain your good name or influence.**
 - Note parallel between Philippians 2:14ff and Matthew 5:13ff.
 - *Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold."*

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always exercise patience and self-control ... Never allow yourself to become agitated or pressured to act in an irrational manner.**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:14. Patience toward all men.
- *James 1:19-20 "But let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."*
- *James 5:11 "ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, how that the Lord is full of pity, and merciful."*

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always stand humbly and boldly for your convictions, respect the convictions of others when you can ... Never be ashamed of Christ or of His church.**

- Peer pressure.
- Paul. cf. 2 Timothy 1:8,12; Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 3:15
- Onesiphorus. cf. 2 Timothy 1:16.

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always put yourself in the background ... Never speak disparagingly about others in their absence.**

- *Proverbs 27:2 "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; A stranger, and not thine own lips."*
- *Philippians 2:3 "each counting other better than himself"*
- *Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one."*

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always follow a safe course ... Never accept a practice that is questionable.**

- 2 Peter 1:5-11; especially verses 10-11.

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Guidelines For Godly Living

- ▶ **Always put God first ... Never try to give God second place.**

- Matthew 6:19, 33; Colossians 1:18; 3:2ff
- It's first place or none with God!

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