

Conduct Above and Beyond

Avoid sin—that is certainly one objective we have as Christians.

1 John 2:1; Hebrews 12:4.

And how do we do that?

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- 1) By NOT DOING what is *specifically* condemned.
 - 2) By DOING what is *specifically* commanded.

But does that really cover all the bases?

Glorifying God would seem to require that we go above and beyond!

Note the emphasis on this in several texts

- 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - And this may involve giving up something which is **not sinful** in and of itself. 1 Cor. 8:8–9, 13.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.
- Philippians 1:19–21.

“See then that you walk circumspectly,
not as fools but as wise” (Eph. 5:15).

“But solid food belongs to those who are
of full age, that is, those who by reason
of use have their senses exercised to
discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:14).

So we have to ask more questions than...

- 1) Is it specifically condemned?
- 2) Is it specifically commanded?

Other important questions

1. What do I need to do to keep **me** growing stronger and stronger?
 - “Till we all come to...the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).
 - How do this affect 1) attendance; 2) choice of companions; 3) time spent in other pursuits; 4) the need to foresee consequences?

Other important questions

2. How can I do the least harm and the most good—
how can I maximize my influence?

- 1 Cor. 9:19–23; 10:23–24; 32–33.
- 1 Thess. 5:15.
- How do this affect 1) my general demeanor; 2) my outward appearance; 3) activities with the “appearance” of wrong; 4) political activism?