



INTRODUCTION

Principles For Meditating On A Biblical Command

1. What is this _____ to do?
2. What's the _____ behind this command?
3. Are there other _____ I can make using this principle?
4. Are there any _____ to this principle?

This will potentially lead you to ways in which you need to do more than the command says and times in which it's ok to do less.

There is obviously plenty of opportunity for abuse when doing this. Your goal needs to be to understand God and his commands. If your goal is to justify your behavior or to see how much you can get away with it won't end well.

Romans 13:13

Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Think about drunkenness using our four principles.

1. What is this saying to do?
2. What's the principle behind this command?
3. Are there other applications I can make using this principle?
4. Are there any exceptions to this principle?

Why think things through like this?

Here's an example of when it's necessary to understand the principle behind a command in order to truly obey it.

1 Corinthians 9:3-11

3 This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. 4 Don't we have the right to food and drink? 5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? 6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? 8 Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? 10 Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. 11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

Think about “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.” using our four principles.

1. What is this saying to do?
2. What’s the principle behind this command?
3. Are there other applications I can make using this principle?
4. Are there any exceptions to this principle?

Here’s an example of when it’s necessary to violate a command in order to obey God.

Matthew 12:1–14

12 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. 2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

3 He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. 5 Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? 6 I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. 7 If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

9 Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, 10 and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

11 He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

13 Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. 14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

Leviticus 6:18

Any male descendant of Aaron may eat it.

What was the purpose behind restricting the consecrated bread to the priests?

Why does Jesus say it was ok for David to eat the consecrated bread?

What reasons does Jesus give for allowing the Sabbath law to be broken?

What can we learn from this about the relationship between commands?

Romans 13:1–10

13 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

1. Where does the government's authority come from?

2. How do we define what it means to “do what is right” in verse three?

As a God-ordained institution, the _____ of government is to _____ and _____ to ensure that we can fulfill our God-given mission.

- To _____
- To be _____
- To have a _____, _____, and _____
- To _____ God

Does the government going beyond its God-given mission give us the right to disobey?

Acts 5:27-32

v29 we must obey God rather than men.

1 Peter 2:11-20

1 Peter 3:13-17

1 Peter 4:12-19

What would make a punishment unjust?

How Christians throughout history have dealt with these issues.

The early church was willing to cause _____.

The early church would not call Caesar _____.

Doctrine of the lesser magistrate.

Sphere Sovereignty

1. G_____

2. C_____

3. H_____

4. I_____

Difference between submission and disobedience

3 Categories of Civil _____

When the Government _____ what God commands

When the Government _____ what God forbids

When the Government commands what isn't theirs to _____

Discussion questions:

We have seen governments across the world take a variety of measures in response to Covid. Using the biblical principles we have outlined, how far can the government go with their Covid restrictions?

Do they have the right to require the sick to quarantine? To require the healthy to stay home? To stop us from working? To prevent us from visiting friends and family? To limit if and how we worship God?

If you think they do have the right to restrict some of these things what biblical principle would give them that right? And what would a just punishment be for violating that restriction?