

Choices
Community Unity Day 2017
1 Chronicles 12:8-14 & John 3:16-17
November 19, 2017

Various internet sources estimate that an adult makes about 35,000 remotely conscious decisions each day (in contrast a child makes about 3,000). This number may sound absurd, but in fact, we make 226.7 decisions each day on just food alone according to researchers at Cornell University (Wansink and Sobal, 2007). As your level of responsibility increases, so does the smorgasbord of choices you are faced with.

Unfortunately we all have made bad choices in our lives!

When I was a **Freshman in High School**, back in 1966 we were all forced to take Algebra! **“Why do I need to find X?”** Who cares I will never ever use this in real life! Right! - Wrong! Let me explain!

In high school I was a pretty good baseball player. But because of my GPA I could not get into a major Collage D1. So I had to play at a Junior College in Ocala. My freshman year I caught the attention of a Baseball scout for the Cincinnati Reds. So when it came time to sign up for Classes I was thinking I had a shot at the minor leagues. I hated school and all I wanted to do was play baseball. In 1972 I was drafted! Not by the Reds but by the US Military. Oops **bad decision** not to sign up for classes!

The Vietnam War was still going on. We were all given two weeks to pick a branch of the military and I opted for the USAF! Somehow I scored high enough on the ASVAB and was able to choose a career field in Electronics. At tech-school when they handed us our manuals the first thing we had to study and learn was.....Algebra! WHAT!

I. Personal Decisions **1 Chronicles 12:8-14** From the Gadites there went over to David at the stronghold in the wilderness mighty and experienced warriors, expert with shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions and who were swift as gazelles upon the mountains: ⁹ Ezer the chief, Obadiah second, Eliab third, ¹⁰ Mishmannah fourth, Jeremiah fifth, ¹¹ Attai sixth, Eliel seventh, ¹² Johanan eighth, Elzabad ninth, ¹³ Jeremiah tenth, Machbannai eleventh. ¹⁴ These Gadites were officers of the army; the least was a match for a hundred men and the greatest for a thousand.

These warriors were defined by their physical strength and ability to fight!

Don't let your Athletic Ability be the only thing that Defines you! You are much more than that!

What you do doesn't define you; Your choices however do define you!

1 Thessalonians 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. **Body** **σῶμα** soma = body of a human being
Physical, Social, and Ethical Expression.
2. **Spirit** **πνεῦμα** pneuma = that which gives life
to the body, Emotion, Personality and Desire.

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. “A fight is going on inside my Spirit,” he said to the boy. “It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. **One is evil** – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.” He continued, “The **other is good** – he is full of joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside your Spirit – and inside every other person, too.” The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?” The old Cherokee simply replied, “**The one you feed.**”

3. **Soul** **ψυχή** psuche = the soul as seat and center of life that transcends the earthly, Mind, Heart, Intellect, Mental, Self.

God has given every human being the ability to choose. **Adam and Eve** had only one rule: Don't eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil! And they broke it! Eve was Deceived – Adam was in Love!

Here's what might have happened if it were today. **Adam & Eve** were walking through the Garden of Eden one day when Eve look over at Adam and said: "Adam I'm hungry" and he said "so am I where would you like to go eat?" Eve responded "I don't care you pick a place and we will go eat dinner." Adam said okay how about **The Mango Grove**, they have great smoothie's there." Eve "No really don't feel like a smoothie today." Adam "Okay how about **The Avocado Village** they have great guacamole." Eve no we ate there last month! Adam "Alright then how about **The Peach Tree Inn** they have excellent Peach Cobbler." Eve "Really Adam, you know I'm trying to watch my figure." Adam "Well then where to YOU want to eat!" Eve "How about we try the place we've never been to called **The Forbidden Apple**." Adam "You know that's off limits.' God said if we eat there we will surely die!" Eve "I was looking on Yelp the other day and saw a review that said it was the best place in the entire Garden to eat.' This guy who calls himself '@**The Serpent**' said that contrary to other reviews if you eat there you will **NOT** surely die!" So they went to The Forbidden Apple and Eve ate and she gave some to Adam and said here eat this, and that's when Adam coined the phrase "**Yes Dear**." And he ate!

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions!

II. **I truly believe that your Personal Decisions**
are a reflection of your **Personal Beliefs**

For the last 14 or so weeks I have talked to these young men about Believe!

Now I would like to take a few minutes today and share with you what I believe!

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

A. I Believe God Loves Everyone (16a) "For God so loved the world,

Today our world is filled with anger, hatred, and Chaos!

Love is The Foundation of Christianity! I call it The Three Legged Stool!

Matthew 22:36-39 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Huston we have Problem: One word for love in English! There are Six words for Love in Greek!

1. **Eros**, sexual passion (Not in NT) Fatal Attraction
2. **Philia**, Brotherly Love or deep friendship
3. **Ludus**, or playful love
4. **Pragma**, or longstanding love
5. **Philautia**, or love of the self
6. **Agape**, Selfless love for everyone

B. I Believe God Gave Everything (16b) that he gave his only Son,

C. I Believe Gods Grace is Available to Everyone (16b) that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

D. I Believe God Doesn't Condemn (17a) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,

E. I Believe God's Desire is to Save You (17b) but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is what I Believe, and it serves me well in making all those decisions that we are confronted with every day! I would never try and force my Beliefs on you! But if this makes since to you then you can one of two things today! Come forward during the invitation or write me a note with your phone number and put it in the offering plate indicating you want to talk with me!

Do you have Dots of Doubt? Let God Connect the Dots today. God Loves you

Praise Team Takes The Platform