More time spent with fewer people leads to greater lasting impact for the Kingdom of God.

*BSU Christian Challenge*
*New Mexico State University*
*Study Series*

**Establishing Personal Convictions**
Knowing When and Where To Take Your Stand

Mark the factors that have had the most influence (good or bad) on your personal convictions. Place a “G” for good influence and a “B” for bad influence or use both letters if applicable.

my parents_______ my teachers_______ my friends_______
myself___________ church___________ culture___________
the Bible___________ movies___________ TV News___________
TV ads___________ TV shows___________

1. Is it possible that you have adopted some personal convictions which are not biblical and that do not please God? YES NO
2. Why is it important for you to identify your current convictions? See 1 Corinthians 3:18-19.
3. Why is it important for you to establish biblical convictions? See Ephesians 5:10.
4. What role should the Bible play in helping you to establish your personal convictions? See Hebrews 4:12.

**Discovering Biblical Principles**

1. Definitions
   a. Observation: A simple restatement of what the text says without attempting to explain it.
   b. Principle: The ‘big idea’ of the text stated in general terms with broad implications.
2. Example: Exodus 20:13, “You shall not murder.”
   a. Observation: Murder is wrong.
   b. Principle: God values human life.
3. It is wise to live our lives based on biblical principles.
4. The purpose of this study is to teach you how to discover the principles of truth in the Scriptures.
5. All of the following passages give insight into establishing personal convictions based on biblical principles. Study each passage and answer these three questions for each passage.
   a. What is your observation regarding personal convictions?
   b. What is the principle that governs the observation?
   c. What is your personal conclusion/application regarding your study?
6. Because of the nature of this Bible study method, it will require more time to complete it. We suggest that you spend several days on it, doing a couple of passages at a time. The personal rewards for going deeper in the word will be worth it.

**STUDY PASSAGES**

1. **1 Chronicles 29:17**  
   Observation:  
   Principle:  
   Conclusion/Application: “I will_________”

2. **1 Corinthians 4:4**  
   Observation:  
   Principle:  
   Conclusion/Application: “I will_________”

3. **2 Chronicles 12:14**  
   Observation:  
   Principle:  
   Conclusion/Application: “I will_________”

4. **Job 31:1**  
   Observation:  
   Principle:  
   Conclusion/Application: “I will_________”

5. **Philippians 2:3**  
   Observation:  
   Principle:  
   Conclusion/Application: “I will_________”

   Observation:  
   Principle:  
   Conclusion/Application: “I will_________”

7. **Luke 16:15**  
   Observation:  
   Principle:  
   Conclusion/Application: “I will_________”
8. 1 Peter 2:20-23
Observation
Principle
Conclusion/Application: “I will

9. Philippians 4:8
Observation
Principle
Conclusion/Application: “I will

10. Genesis 39:10
Observation
Principle
Conclusion/Application: “I will

CONCLUSION: A Question of Character
When you discover that your personal convictions are in opposition to biblical principles, will you adjust your convictions to reflect biblical truth?
YES  NO  IT DEPENDS

Explain your answer.

Note: This method of Bible study can be used on every verse of Scripture. We challenge you to seek out biblical principles and live by them all your life.

MEMORIZE   1 Corinthians 4:4

For advanced study check out these passages:
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Haggai 1:2-10; Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Timothy 5:1-2; James 3:3-12; Hebrews 13:5

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