



RCCG OCEANIA

Character & Holiness

DECISIONS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

AT A GLANCE

BIG IDEA

Every decision carries weight, impacting not just the individual but potentially entire communities or nations. Understanding the difference between personal and national sin is crucial, as is recognizing that laws should not accommodate vices. By examining examples like the legalization of marijuana, we can better grasp the importance of voting with conscience and the dangers of letting chance dictate our lives.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Exodus 20:1-17

Genesis 3:1-19

Proverbs 14:34

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Decisions lead to consequences that can affect both individuals and nations.
- Laws should define and stop vices, not accommodate them.
- Relying on chance for life decisions can lead to destruction.
- Personal sins differ from national sins, but both have serious implications.
- Voting with conscience is essential to prevent societal vices from becoming normalized.

INTRODUCTION

Decisions, whether personal or collective, have far-reaching consequences. They shape our lives and the societies we live in. Understanding the weight of our choices and the moral frameworks that guide them is essential for personal integrity and societal health.

SCRIPTURE READING

- **Exodus 20:1-17** — The Ten Commandments provide a moral framework that highlights the importance of laws in defining right and wrong.
- **Genesis 3:1-19** — The story of Adam and the fruit illustrates the consequences of personal decisions.
- **Proverbs 14:34** — This verse emphasizes the impact of righteousness and sin on a nation.

KEY POINTS

1. UNDERSTANDING LAWS AND VICES — Laws are established to define and curb vices, maintaining moral integrity within a society. When laws begin to accommodate vices, the moral fabric of society is at risk. The Ten Commandments serve as a timeless example of laws that define right and wrong, guiding individuals and communities towards righteousness.

- Reflect on how current laws in your community align with moral principles.
- Consider the impact of laws that accommodate vices on societal health.
- Engage in discussions about the role of laws in defining morality.

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

2. CONSEQUENCES OF DECISIONS — Every decision we make has consequences that often extend beyond our immediate understanding. The story of Adam and Eve illustrates how a single choice can lead to far-reaching repercussions. It is crucial to consider potential outcomes before making decisions.

- Evaluate past decisions and their long-term effects on your life.
- Before making a decision, list possible outcomes and weigh them carefully.
- Seek counsel from trusted individuals when faced with significant choices.

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-19

3. THE DANGERS OF CHANCE — Relying on chance for life decisions can lead to self-destruction. Making informed choices based on wisdom and understanding is vital. Leaving important decisions to chance can result in unforeseen negative consequences.

- Identify areas in your life where you rely on chance and seek to make informed decisions instead.
- Develop a habit of researching and gathering information before making choices.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment in decision-making.

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

4. PERSONAL VS. NATIONAL SIN — While personal sins affect individuals, national sins can bring judgment upon entire communities. Proverbs 14:34 highlights the impact of righteousness and sin on a nation. Understanding this distinction is key to promoting societal health and righteousness.

- Reflect on how personal actions contribute to the moral climate of your community.
- Advocate for policies that promote righteousness and oppose those that normalize sin.
- Pray for national leaders to make decisions that align with moral principles.

Scripture: Proverbs 14:34

5. VOTING WITH CONSCIENCE — Voting should be guided by conscience to prevent societal vices from becoming normalized and legally accepted. Each vote is a decision that contributes to the direction of a community or nation. It is crucial to vote with an informed and moral perspective.

- Research candidates and policies before voting to ensure they align with your values.
- Encourage others to vote with a conscience informed by moral principles.
- Engage in community discussions about the importance of voting responsibly.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

OBSERVATION

- What are some examples of laws that define vices in your community?
- How did Adam and Eve's decision impact their lives and the world?
- What does Proverbs 14:34 say about the impact of righteousness on a nation?

INTERPRETATION

- Why is it important for laws to define and stop vices?
- How can personal decisions lead to broader societal consequences?
- What are the dangers of relying on chance for important life decisions?

APPLICATION

- In what ways can you ensure your decisions align with moral principles?
- How can you contribute to promoting righteousness in your community?
- What steps can you take to vote with a well-informed conscience?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for wisdom in decision-making
- Seek guidance for aligning choices with moral principles
- Intercede for national leaders to uphold righteousness

NEXT STEP

Reflect on recent decisions and consider their broader impact on your community and personal integrity.

CONCLUSION

Decisions are powerful and carry consequences that extend beyond the individual. By understanding the moral frameworks that guide us, we can make choices that promote personal integrity and societal health. Let us strive to make informed decisions that align with righteousness and contribute positively to our communities and nations.

© RCCG OCEANIA.

Adapted from Myles Munroe's teachings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe9igHdxHo>