

BONUS VIDEO 1

In 1982 Buckminster Fuller created something called the “Knowledge Doubling Curve”; he noticed that until 1900 human knowledge doubled approximately every century. By the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Today, as the world has splintered into more specialized fields, it’s increasingly difficult to measure. But on average human knowledge is doubling every 13 months. According to an IBM report from a couple years ago, the build out of the “internet of things” will lead to the doubling of knowledge every 12 hours.

Too much information, too fast, means life is uncontrollably unpredictable. This fact leaves us feeling vulnerable. The average human today possesses a well-developed tentativeness. We’re afraid to make commitments, because we know we could never possibly have all the facts.

For Christians, who hold a high view of the Bible, some of that confusion gets cleared into black and white, morally right and wrong categories. But there is another 80% or so of life that is remarkably grey. Where should we go to college? What career path should we choose? Who should we marry or should we get married? There are few more practically impactful questions in life, but how do you make a “right” decision?

I’ve come to develop something of a filter for making wise decisions in the confusion of the grey.

#1 Identify the Applicable Biblical Principles – The Bible is the one thing that proves itself always trustworthy. While it doesn’t give us direct advice in every life scenario, it provides timeless, relevant life truths for every life circumstance. Make sure you know what the Bible says that relates to your circumstances.

#2 Pray – Prayer is our half of the dialogue with God. While God might not give us obvious, direct answers, God certainly does condition our hearts through prayer.

#3 Get Input from Christians You Respect – God designed “the Church” for thousands of reasons, but one of them is to help you see your blind spots, and another is to share collective wisdom.

#4 Trust Your Gut – First of all, you were created in the image of God, which includes a moral sense of right/wrong as well as an alarm-like conscience that goes off when you’re violating your design. While consciences in flawed humans aren’t perfect, they’re generally helpful. Second, if you’re a believer, you have the Spirit of God living inside of you. It’s not only possible, but probable that you should sense him moving you in various directions at times.

Using those 4 points for navigating areas will help you make decisions by which you’re working the gospel into every corner of your life.

QUESTIONS FOR BONUS VIDEO 1

1) What is the hardest decision you've ever had to make? What resources did you use when going about making that decision?

2) While we do have tremendous freedom in the decisions we make in life, the two things we don't really have freedom to do as Christians are 1) violate God's clearly revealed will, or 2) obviously put *self* ahead of God or others. Can you think of a situation for yourself in which you might be tempted to do something that the Bible doesn't clearly forbid, but would potentially be very selfish/self-centered?

3) Consider the following scenarios (all 3 of which were very real for me at one point). What would it look like to apply those 4 points of navigating grey areas to these situations, i.e. What should the Christian be considering?

- You really like a girl who is not a Christian, and she is interested in you too. You go on a few dates, and while it becomes apparent that she's increasingly interested in you, from everything you can tell, she's not at the moment interested in your Lord.
- You sense you're at a relatively weak point in faith and drifting further. But you have a significant scholarship offer to a university you like, however, you have no significant Christian support system in that area.
- You receive a job offer that could potentially double your pay, and significantly advance your career in the world's eyes, but you think there's a possibility it could end up jeopardizing your Christian values.