



# Tough Questions

**The Journey – Fall 2017**

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**Christian Life Assembly**



# Tough Question #4



# Tough Questions

- Last week I used smoking as an example of habitual sin because it was the example in the question I was given. Is smoking a sin?
- Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. 15 And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. 16 Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. 17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. 19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.



## Tough Questions

- **Smoking is probably not a sin, but it is certainly unwise when it comes to honoring the temple of the Holy Spirit.**
- **If I am going to call smoking a sin, then I would also have to list my own dirty laundry of being addicted to sugar.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Cor 6:12 You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything.**



# Tough Question #5



# Tough Questions

- **Does the bible teach that all of our sins, past, present, and future are forgiven when we receive Jesus?**
- **One of the Bible's greatest truths is that Christ died to take away all our sins—not just part of them, but all of them: past, present, and future. This is why you shouldn't fear that you will lose your salvation every time you commit a sin. If that were the case, you and I would lose our salvation every day—because we sin every day. Even if our actions are pure, our thoughts often are not. And even if our actions and thoughts are pure, we still sin because of the good things we should be doing but fail to do. Never forget: Your salvation does not depend on you and how good you are. (Billy Graham Association)**



## Tough Questions

- **Heb 9:25** And he did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. **26** If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. *But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.*
- **Heb 10:11** Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. **12** *But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.*



# Tough Question #6





## Tough Questions

- **Is it possible for a recovered homosexual to pastor or hold a leadership position in a church?**
- **I think I will answer this one with this question - Is it possible for a recovered alcoholic to pastor or hold a leadership position in a church?**
- **What about - Is it possible for a recovered thief, adulterer, or idolater to pastor or hold a leadership position in a church?**



## Tough Questions

- **Maybe the right question is why do we assign such weight to the sin of homosexuality over what we assign to other sins?**
- **It is probably accurate to say that alcoholism, greed, abusive anger, and adultery have done and are doing more harm to our culture than homosexual behavior.**
- **So why do we treat this one sin as though it is somehow the worst of the worst?**



## Tough Questions

- **I believe the church has had to be as vocal as we have about homosexuality because it is the only sin I can think of that has a powerful advocacy group in our media and culture.**
- **You do not see people marching for the rights of thieves, fornicators, drunkards, and murderers.**
- **It is because of the attention this sin is getting in our culture that the church has been forced to be as vocal as we are.**



# Tough Questions

- We should add this though to the discussion – there is something peculiar to homosexual behavior that does not seem to follow other sins.
- Rom 1:24 So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. 25 They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. 26 That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. 27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.