

HABIT 1: LIVING FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

We all have a lens or paradigm through which we view every choice we make in life. As disciples of Jesus, we have chosen to make our decisions based on a recognition that “*Jesus is Lord.*” God gave us a living example that we can follow in the life of Jesus. Jesus brought glory to God in everything he did. As we learn to “*walk in love*” just as Jesus did, we bring glory to God.

The figure below illustrates this paradigm. Our lives are built on the foundation of the grace of God which enables us to choose to “*love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength*” and to “*live by faith.*” We live out our faith by examining everything against the example of Jesus – asking the familiar question, “what would Jesus do?” This helps frame every decision in our personal life, public worship, relationships, profession, and interactions with everyone we come in contact with.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:31

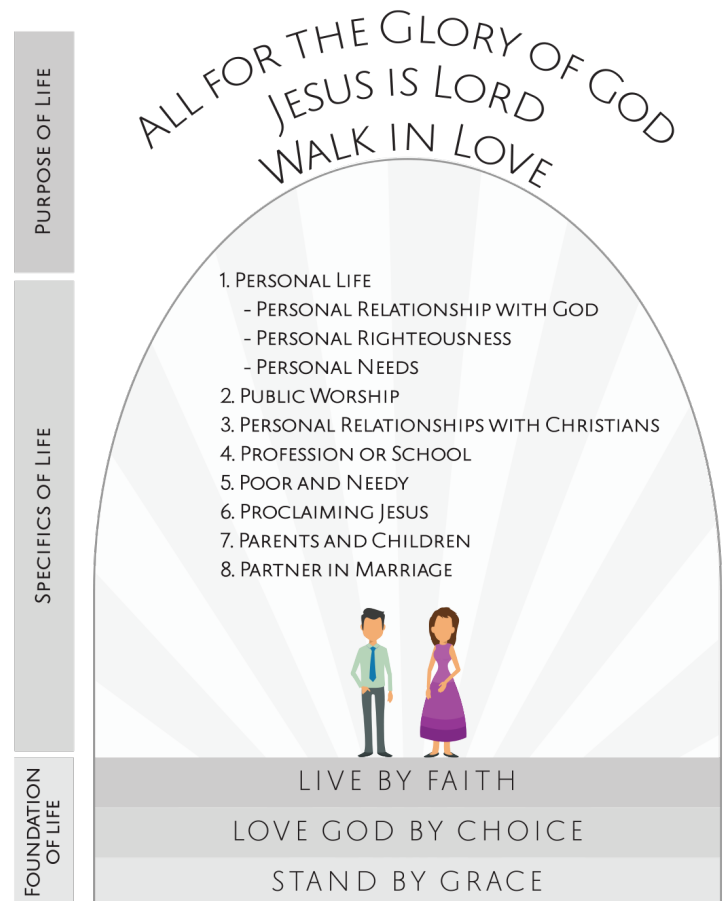
So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

THE FOUNDATION OF LIFE

- 1) Stand by Grace (*Ephesians 2:4-8*)
- 2) Love God by Choice (*Matthew 22:37-38*)
- 3) Live by Faith (*2 Corinthians 5:7*)
 - Believe the facts
 - Trust the promises
 - Obey the commandments

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

- 1) All for the Glory of God (*1 Corinthians 10:31*)
Questions to Ask:
 “Does this glorify God?” and
 “Is it the Lord’s will?” (*James 4:15*)
 - Where we go and what we do
 - How we act and react
 - How we use our talents, money, time, possessions
- 2) Jesus Is Lord (*Romans 10:9*)
Question to Ask:
 “What would Jesus do?” (*1 John 2:6*)
- 3) Walk in Love (*Ephesians 5:1-2*)
Question to Ask:
 “How can I grow in my love?” (*2 Thessalonians 1:3, Philippians 1:9*)



THE SPECIFICS OF LIFE

- 1) Personal Life
 - Relationship with God [Covered in HABIT 2: Having Daily Quiet Times]
 - Personal Righteousness & Personal Needs [Covered in HABIT 6: Developing a Disciplined Life]
- 2) Public Worship [Covered in HABIT 5: Preparing to Meet Together (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)]
- 3) Personal Relationships with Christians
 - Discipling [Covered in HABIT 4: Embracing Discipling Relationships and Level 4: Six PRINCIPLES About Relationships]
 - One Another Relationships [Covered in Kingdom Training Level 4: Six PRINCIPLES About Relationships]
- 4) Profession or School (*Colossians 3:23-24*)
- 5) Poor and Needy
 - How we treat the poor is how we treat Jesus (*Matthew 25:35-36*)
 - Service opportunities include our annual Season of Service with HOPE worldwide (Backpack Drive, September 11 Day of Service, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Holiday Toy Drive, and MLK Day of Service)
- 6) Proclaiming Jesus (*Luke 19:10*) [Covered in HABIT 3: Maintaining an Evangelistic Lifestyle]
- 7) Parents and Children (*Exodus 20:12*)
 - Resources include Kingdom Kids, Youth & Family Ministry including Preteen-Teen-Parent Devotionals, and Good Enough Parenting class
 - Sign up your kids for R Camp, Teen Camp, and HOPE Youth Corps!
- 8) Partner in Marriage (*Ephesians 5:33*)
 - Resources include: Dynamic Marriage and United Marriage classes
 - Sign up for one of the Marriage Retreats in February/March
 - *Embrace them all! Do your best! Know yourself! Train yourself!*

CONCLUSION: Stand by Grace

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. (1 Corinthians 15:10)

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Corinthians 12:8-9)

10 CONCEPTS (*from Part Four of Randy McKean's book, "Radical Love")

- 1) It's All or Nothing
- 2) It's Never OK to Say No to God
- 3) If It's Not Daily, It's Not Christianity
- 4) Understand the Seasons of Life
- 5) Your Christianity is Your Own Responsibility
- 6) Be Responsible but Not Over-Responsible
- 7) Understand That You Obey Your Highest Authority
- 8) Know, Welcome, and Respect Boundaries
- 9) Use Who You Are to Serve and Build Up the Church
- 10) Don't Be Over-Wicked or Over-Righteous

Recommended Reading

* Randy McKean, *Radical Love*, IPI Books, 2016, www.ipibooks.com