

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- Look through the *Too Many* list from the Message Listening Guide. What are some examples for each one? Give an example of when a choice became your undoing instead of a friend.
- Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20 LB. How often does the ability to live safely rise and fall on our choices? How do those choices even affect our kids?
- Read Luke 15:11-14. How did the younger son's choice become his undoing? Which of the *Too Many* did he fall prey to? Why do you think God gives us choices?
- If we want to develop a Biblical matrix for understanding choices, there are at least five areas to consider. Look at each area and give an example. Why is it so important to understand the difference between them? Where can it be confusing, dividing, and even emotional? How can we really grow to agree to disagree in Christian love and choices?
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:23 MSG. What principle is Paul getting at in the area of practicing Christian choice? What becomes so clear when you read verse 24 MSG? What would the implication be for your life if you began practicing the first two principles for choice?

Next Steps: What are some practical steps to be more intentional in leveraging your choices and using choices to benefit others? Be specific.

Changing Your Mind: *Looking at it one way, you could say, "Anything goes. Because of God's immense generosity and grace, we don't have to dissect and scrutinize every action to see if it will pass muster." But the point is not to just get by. We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 MSG*



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



²³I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive

1 Corinthians 10:23 NIV

Too Many...

- activities calling for your commitment
- significant choices to make every day
- sources of information coming at you
- voices shouting for your attention
- things you want and can't have
- people telling you what's important
- entertaining entertainments
- tempting temptations
- things that we "need" to function well

Choices should be our friend not our undoing.

¹⁹...I have set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Oh, that you would choose life; that you and your children might live!²⁰ Choose to love the Lord your God and to obey him and to cling to him, for he is your life and the length of your days. You will then be able to live safely in the land the Lord promised...

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 LB

¹⁴After he spent everything he had, there was a terrible famine throughout the country. He was hungry and needed money...¹⁷"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, '... I am dying of hunger! Luke 15:11, 17 TPT, NLT

Not Everything is a Choice

➔ Commandments

⁵But be very careful to obey all the commands and the instructions that Moses gave to you. Love the LORD your God, walk in all his ways, obey his commands, embrace him, serve him with everything you are and have.”
Joshua 22:5 NLT, MSG

No Wiggle Room

^{9a} The law code—don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other “don't” you can think of...
Romans 13:9a (MSG)

➔ Convictions

A conviction is a strong belief or persuasion.
It is a clear belief that comes from scripture
which might include interpretation.

¹⁴The Lord Jesus has given me the knowledge and conviction that no food is unacceptable in and of itself...
Romans 14:14 GW

^{5a}When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions...
1 Thessalonians 1:5 MSG

➔ Conscience

A matter of conscience is a question
of practice or behavior which the Bible
doesn't explicitly address.

⁵...one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.
Romans 14:5 MSG

➔ Conjecture

¹⁵So be very careful how you live, not being like those with no understanding, but live honorably with true wisdom, for we are living in evil times. Take full advantage of every day as you spend your life for his purposes.
Ephesians 5:15 TPT

➔ Choices

²³“All things are allowed,” you say. But not all things are good. “All things are allowed.” But some things don't help anyone. ²⁴Try to do what is good for others, not just what is good for yourselves.
1 Corinthians 10:23-24 NIV

Living Well with the Choices You Have

➔ Choices are to be leveraged. See Ephesians 5:15 TPT

²³Looking at it one way, you could say, “Anything goes. Because of God's immense generosity and grace, we don't have to dissect and scrutinize every action to see if it will pass muster.” But the point is not to just get by.
1 Corinthians 10:23 MSG

➔ Choices are to benefit others.

²⁴ We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well. 1 Corinthians 10:24 MSG

Bottom Line:

You are free to choose,
but not free of the choice.

Resources for this message include material from Liquid Church, Mecklenburg Community Church, & Summit Church.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.