

“Pushing the Limits”

The Issue:

Far too often we try to push the limits of what we know we should not do. We often live trying to see how much we can “get away with” without actually crossing the line and sinning. Should we really be flirting with sin and trying to get as close to the edge as possible, or should we have a different focus?

What does the Bible say?

What do these verses say about the focus we should have?

- God knows our heart. He wants us to seek Him: *"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever."* - I Chronicles 28:9
- Our sole focus should be to grow closer to God: *"One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple."* - Psalms 27:4
- We should ask God to direct us in His ways: *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* - Psalms 139:23–24
- Beyond just our actions, God looks at our motives: *"All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits."* - Proverbs 16:2
- Flee the dangers of sin and pursue godliness: *"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."* - II Timothy 2:22

What should I do?

Scripture gives overwhelming support that our focus should not be on pushing the limits, but rather on being committed to doing all things in a way that clearly glorifies God and draws us closer to Him in obedience. Some good questions we must ask ourselves are:

How well are my actions pleasing God? *"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."* – I Corinthians 10:31

How well are my actions drawing me closer to God? *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."* – James 4:8

God is not pleased when our desire is to push to the edge of what we think is “okay” (*He does not want us going in the direction that leads us away from Him!*) However, God is pleased when we make decisions that draw us closer to Him in obedience.

Let us apply these principles to every aspect of our lives, so that in all things we do, we will continually be pursuing Him and His righteousness: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* – Matthew 6:33. And also: *"But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness."* - I Timothy 6:11.