

LIVING WISELY AS WE FOLLOW JESUS

The text from Ephesians 5:15 states, “Be careful then, how you live, not as unwise people, but as wise.” We can get some help from people in recovery for this verse. In Step 11, of the 12 Steps of AA, we are encouraged to use the Four Absolutes in living wisely. They are: Absolute Love, Absolute Honesty, Absolute Unselfishness, and Absolute Purity. So when examining actions or your motivations, ask yourself these questions:

Am I acting out of love?

Am I being honest?

Am I acting unselfishly?

Are my motives pure?

All four of these questions help us handle any situation where we wonder what is the wise thing to do. If you are second guessing yourself on how you are handling some situation, asking these questions makes it easier to be confident in your decision. This is one way to live as wise, not unwise people. When you can answer yes to them, then you know you will be “doing the next right thing” which is a part of wise living. Then you can go about your life (or your day) knowing you followed through the conflict situation in a way where God is leading you.

Here is another set of questions that I have used and are used by others when facing a difficult need to speak to someone.

Is it kind?

Is it true?

Is it necessary?

When dealing with a conflict, if two of these three apply, then you need to act and speak to the person involved. Sometimes a thing may be true but it is neither kind nor necessary and as such we just don't need to speak.

I pray these ideas will help you to make wise decisions in your life each day.