
COMPASS



> *Philippians 4:8* <

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Decisions are tough, especially the ones where the right way isn't really clear. A lot of times people will point to the Bible and tell us that it's the "answer book," and that we should look up our questions, find the answers, and move on it. The problem is that the Bible doesn't always work that way. While the Bible is the inspired word of God, and a wonderful collection of knowledge that help us understand the ways of God and what He's calling us to do, it doesn't have a literal answer for each of our specific questions. (The Bible won't provide the literal answer to what college you should choose.)

The Bible is more like a compass. See, a compass won't answer the question, "which is the right way to go"? It's a tool that tells us what direction we're going. But it won't tell us that camp is 5.3 miles behind us. The Bible is often the same. While there's a ton of direct, specific knowledge in it that provides clear direction for decisions you'll make, it doesn't have any specific verses about what to say when talking with a friend who's dealing with anorexia, or whose parents are going through a divorce. But here is where it functions like a compass . . .

In this passage from Philippians, Paul gives us some things to focus on, some general guidance that will point us in the right direction. Making a tough decision? Focus on things that are true, respectable, fair, pure, what is good and worthy of God. Overlay these criteria on your decisions and follow them like a compass into the ways of God.

Go and Do

When you're faced with a tough decision write your question at the top of a sheet of paper. Then make two columns. In the left column write the things Paul mentions above. In the right, answer your question with each of compasses that Paul gives us. What is true? What is good, respectable etc. After you go through this process your direction should be much clearer.
