

The Ten “E” Principles

By [Mike Riley](#)

There are certain activities that the Bible does not specifically address. For example, what kind of movies and television programs we should watch, what kind of music we should listen to, or what kind of recreational activities are appropriate to engage in (such as dancing, social drinking, gambling, etc.).

The following are ten biblical principles beginning with the letter “E” that will assist us in our decision making:

Expediency ([1 Corinthians 6:12](#)) – Will this activity be spiritually profitable? Some activities can be wrong if they keep us from doing that which will enhance our spiritual life.

Edification ([1 Corinthians 10:23](#)) – Will this activity build us up, spiritually speaking, and lead us to greater spiritual maturity?

Excess ([Hebrews 12:1](#)) – Will this activity hinder us in running the Christian race? While being out late on Saturday night is not a sin, it may not be the best choice if it leaves us too tired to properly engage ourselves in the worship service on Sunday morning.

Enslavement ([1 Corinthians 6:12](#)) – Will this activity bring us under its control? We all know it’s sinful to be controlled by alcohol or drugs, but it is just as sinful to be controlled by music, sports, television, or any other activity that tends to have control over us.

Equivocation ([1 Peter 2:16](#)) – Are we using our freedom in Christ as simply a “cover” for catering to our evil and sinful desires? If we are, we need to seriously evaluate our motives by the standard of God’s word ([2 Corinthians 13:5](#)).

Encroachment ([Romans 14:2-8](#)) – Will this activity violate the lordship of Christ in our lives? Let’s never allow others to talk ourselves into doing what we know the Lord would not want us to be doing.

Example ([1 Corinthians 8:9](#)) – Will engaging in this activity set a good or bad example for others to follow?

Evangelism ([1 Peter 2:12](#)) – Will this activity cause non-Christians to see a difference in our lives?

Emulation ([1 John 2:6](#)) – Would Jesus engage in this activity?

Exaltation ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#)) – Will this activity glorify God?

By putting into practice the above ten biblical principles, we can better equip ourselves to resist the many worldly activities that are so prevalent in our world today.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

January 22, 2017



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

Will Vann, Preacher

9:30 am Bible Study

863-899-0987

10:20 am Worship

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

7:pm

“Loose Cannons”

By Kevin Cauley

Reading through the news today, I came across an article on one of the presidential candidates wherein one of his former military commanders had said that he was a “loose cannon.” Just the other day, one of our members was telling me about a man who claimed to be a “loose cannon” religiously; we took that as meaning that he didn’t attend at any one particular “church.” And just the other day, I was listening to a CD narrative of the battle of Gettysburg which we purchased while we were on our family vacation this year; it reminded me of just what a “loose cannon” was. When the soldiers attending to a cannon were all wounded, captured, or killed, then the cannon would be turned around by the opposing force and aimed in the other direction back at those to whom it originally belonged. A “loose cannon” can be a very dangerous thing.

Just from looking at these thoughts behind the idea of a “loose cannon,” three different pictures emerge. The first idea represented is that of lack of respect for authority. That is, the individual who is described by his superior as a loose cannon doesn’t know how to respect the chain of command; he is an authority to himself, but respects no other authority. Second, the individual who described himself as a “loose cannon” represents himself as having no affiliation with one side or another. And third, the actual loose cannon on the battlefield represents the idea of something that has been captured and is now being used by the enemy. Christians ought not to be “loose cannons” in any of the senses indicated above.

First, Christians are to respect authority. We are first and foremost to respect the authority of our Lord who has been given all authority ([Matthew 28:18](#)) over all flesh ([John 17:2](#)). We respect Christ’s authority by looking to His word for everything that we say and do in service to Him in His kingdom ([Colossians 3:17](#)). Second, we are to respect the authority of those who are in places of authority such as parents ([Ephesians 6:1, 2](#)), elders ([Hebrews 13:17](#)), and government leaders ([Romans 13:1-6](#)). Jude says of those false teachers in his day that they are those who do not respect authority ([Jude 1:8](#)). Let’s not be guilty of being a “loose cannon” in not respecting authority.

Second, Christians are to be affiliated with something, namely, Christ and His church. All those who are baptized into Christ are baptized into Christ’s body ([1 Corinthians 12:13](#)), which is His church ([Colossians 1:18](#)). Christians belong to Christ and are members of his body, the church. Unfortunately, denominationalism has blurred many people’s understanding regarding the one true church of Christ, and caused them to think that they need not be “affiliated” with any “church”/denomination. Truthfully, no Christian ought to be affiliated with a denomination, but all ought to be affiliated with Christ’s church.

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Those to Serve

(B) Jeffrey Burks (FV) Calvin Burks

(O) Doug Pruett (A) Kyle Stifflemire

1st prayer Vernon Houts

2nd prayer Jack Wall

Announcements: Judd Wall

Singing: Mike Mallett

Prayer List:

Naomi Wall

Letha Sheldon

Mildred Lovell

Janese Lancaster

Ruby Jones

Loyd Crownover

Pray for our Nation

Our Troops

Law Enforcement

Rescue Personal

Dates to Remember

January 29th

Noon Fellowship Meal

February 5th

Mission Sunday



To

Doug & Theresa Pruett, Jan 26th

(continued) “Loose Cannons”

To not be affiliated with the church of Christ is to abandon the head of the church himself, Christ Jesus ([Ephesians 1:22](#)). It is to take oneself out from among the saved ([Acts 2:47](#); [Ephesians 5:23](#)). It is to remove oneself from those who are called saints ([1 Corinthians 1:2](#)). Let’s not be guilty of being a “loose cannon” by not being affiliated with the church of Christ ([Matthew 16:18](#)).

Third, Christians are not to be captured and used by the enemy. We have an enemy, no doubt! ([Matthew 13:39](#)) And we, as Christians, must take up the whole armor of God and fight! ([Ephesians 6:11](#)) Our enemy is not flesh and blood but that which exalts itself against the knowledge of God ([2 Corinthians 10:3, 4](#)). How tragic, then, should we be captured by our enemy and turned to fight God! Yet some have done this very thing. How? 1) By seeking worldliness. The friend of the world is the enemy of God ([James 4:4](#)). 2) By being apathetic toward God ([Revelation 3:16](#)). We’re not supposed to be lukewarm as Christians. 3) By looking to satisfy self ([Philippians 3:18](#)). We’re not of those whose god is their belly. Let’s resolve not to be captured by the enemy, and never be a “loose cannon.”

Being described as a “loose cannon” is not something of which I would be very proud, whether that was in respect to authority, affiliation, or being captured by the enemy. Each one of us has a responsibility to respect authority, maintain fellowship with God and each other, and fight against the enemy in our life, wherever that enemy may give battle. “Loose cannons” have no place within the ranks of Christ’s army. Let us not so be.