



Module 4 – Making Good Decisions - Handout

“Your life is the sum result of all the choices you make, both consciously and unconsciously. If you can control the process of choosing, you can take control of all aspects of your life. You can find the freedom that comes from being in charge of yourself.”

U.S. Senator Robert F. Bennett

Two Principles for Good Decision Making

1. We have the power to decide what we do and say
2. We are morally responsible for the consequences of our choices.

Qualities of a Good Decision

1. Effective (move toward the most important goals) and ethical (reflect commitment to the Six Pillars of Character)
2. Rational (result from careful reasoning; evaluating the effectiveness and ethics of options) not rationalizations (justify decisions the decision-maker wants to make or has already made)
3. Reflect both discernment (ability to evaluate facts and potential consequences from a practical and moral perspective) and discipline (strength of character to do what should be done even when it is costly or uncomfortable).

Five Questions for Recognizing Important Decisions

1. Is there possible danger of physical harm to you or anyone else?
2. Could you or someone else suffer serious emotional pain?
3. Could the decision hurt your reputation?
4. Could the decision impede achieving any important goal?
5. Could you or someone else suffer significant monetary or property loss?

Seven Step Decision-making Process

1. Stop and Think
2. Clarify Goal
3. Determine Facts
4. Develop Options
5. Consider Consequences
6. Choose
7. Monitor and Modify

If it is clearly necessary to violate one core ethical value to honor another core ethical value, do the thing that you sincerely believe will produce the greatest amount of good in the long run.

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