



Ask Dr. Ryrie

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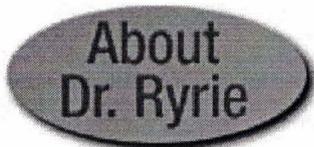


Monday, January 5, 1998

Subject: How do I know when to say "no"?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: As a Christian, when is it OK to decline requests made of me that in and of themselves are not sinful? Does it make a difference whether or not the person making the request is a Christian? --Pete J.

Dear Pete: This is not an easy question to answer because there is no set rule you can follow that will work in all occasions. But some guidelines might include: 1) What has God primarily called you to do in life? This will involve your family responsibilities, your responsibilities in the workplace, etc. 2) What are your priorities with regard to your local church? This will often determine whether you must say "no" to other things that are not in themselves sinful but that would take time away from other things that have higher priority. I do not think it usually makes much difference whether the person asking you is a believer or not. Your own stewardship responsibilities and priorities before the Lord are your primary concern. Sometimes people place us in situations that are awkward, especially if we have to say "no," but that can sometimes be the best response--so don't hesitate to say it.



Got a Question? -- Ask it

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