

## 1 Guiding Principles

- Why do our moral principles, at times, fail us?

## 2 Justin Bieber

- Justin Bieber is one of the most popular young pop musicians today, but he's had his share of difficulties with the law.
- Last January, Bieber was arrested in Miami for drag racing and charged with a DUI.
- That same month, he surrendered to Canadian authorities to answer a charge of assault on a limo driver.

## 3 Justin Bieber

- There've been a few other incidents as well, although some of them have probably been exaggerated due to the excessive attention celebrities receive.
- And a few can probably be chalked up to the a 20-year-old mega-star stumbling through life.
- However, one of the most bizarre instances when Justin Bieber got himself in hot water was for throwing eggs at his neighbor's house—which resulted in \$20,000 in damages.

## 4 Surrogate Father

- Thankfully, Justin Bieber hasn't as yet suffered a total meltdown.
- Some of this may be because his discoverer, Scooter Braun, assumed the role of a surrogate father for the teen, who was being raised by a single mom.
- That's not to discount the influence of Bieber's mother or his father; the star continues to have contact with both of them.
- In fact, both Braun and Bieber's mom reportedly share "a deep commitment to family values."

## 5 Surrogate Father

- But when living in the glare of the spotlight, there are pressures most of us don't face.
- So Braun says that, from the time he became Bieber's manager, he resolved to make sure Bieber understood his responsibilities and had the tools to deal with the stress of stardom.
- In fact, Braun hired a team to guide the youngster.

## 6 Rules of Conduct

- In a 2011 online article for Aish.com, Braun explained, "We have an ironclad rule for anyone working with Justin: If you treat him like a superstar, you're fired immediately.
- We don't coddle him. We hold him up to being responsible.
- We demand that he shows respect to people. If he makes a mistake, he has to apologize.
- Our job is to not only guide his career, but to make sure he grows up to be a good man.

## 7 Charitable Component

- What's more, Braun insists that every business arrangement for Bieber have a charitable component built in.
- (Indeed, Google "Justin Bieber charity list," and you'll find some 14 charities and 17 causes the singer supports.)
- However, that Aish article was written four years ago, before Bieber's recent scuffles with the law.

## 8 **GQ Magazine Interview**

- In another article, this time in GQ magazine in March of this year, Braun is quoted as saying that his work with young stars is similar to being a parent with a kid growing up:
  - "There is a point where you guide them and there's a point where you feel like you've planted enough seeds and you watch them make mistakes," Braun said.
  - "My responsibility is to always be there when they fall, and always be there to help them get back up. But at some point I need to let them fail, because if they don't they're going to have no humanity."

## 9 **Guiding Principles**

- What we can gather from these two articles together is that Braun . . .
  - has tried to instill some guiding principles in his young client to keep him steady as he moves forward, and
  - that Bieber is now encountering some real-life situations where he'd be well served to remember them.

## 10 **Guiding Principles**

- From the Aish article, we might shorthand those principles as:
  - Be responsible.
  - Respect others.
  - Value family.
  - When you make a mistake, apologize.
  - Support charitable work.

## 11 **Pithy Principles**

- The following are other principles that many people use today in our society.
  - Practice moderation in all things.
  - Don't sweat the small stuff.
  - Life's too short to hold a grudge.
  - Don't ask others to do what you aren't willing to do yourself.
  - Give a day's work for a day's pay.
  - Do what's right; two wrongs don't make a right.
  - Pick your battles.

## 12 **Pithy Principles in Philippians**

- The Apostle Paul, it turns out, also had some guiding principles too.
- He embedded some of them in his letter to the Philippians.
- He wrote this letter while imprisoned in Rome, and so it probably dates near the end of his life.
- In the letter, he refers to some of the things that he has learned along the way.
- In fact, twice in chapter 4, Paul uses the phrase "I have learned ..." (vv. 11-12), which is a sure giveaway that whatever he says following those words are likely to be operating standards he relies on now as he goes about his life and work.

### 13 **Guiding Principles from the Apostle Paul**

- Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:4–7 NIV)

### 14 **Guiding Principles from the Apostle Paul**

- 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. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4:8–9 NIV)

### 15

- Here are Paul's principles for the Philippians . . .
  - Rejoice in the Lord always (v. 4).
  - Let your gentleness be known to everyone. (v. 5).
  - Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (v. 6).
  - Dwell on the highest things (v. 8).
  - Learn to be content (v. 11).
  - You can do all things through him who strengthens you (v. 13).
  - God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus (v. 19).

### 16 **The Problem with Pithy Principles**

- For Centuries Christians have found these principles from the Apostle Paul as very helpful.
- However, there is a problem with all Guiding Principles of worth.

- Life is a moving target and some good principles don't always apply in every situation.

## 17 **The Problem with Pithy Principles**

- But perhaps the most significant trouble with guiding principles is how easy it is to forget them, or at least forget to put them into practice when we need them.
- We can get so bogged down in or overwhelmed by circumstances of life, that our hard-won bits of wisdom don't spring to mind.
- The result is that we can often get in more trouble than Justin Bieber on a Saturday night.

## 18 **Bad Memory**

- So then, why do we, when we most need them fail to use our guiding principles of life?
- In other words, why does memory not remind us what we need to know when we need it.
- Preacher Richard . . .

## 19 **Bible References**

- The dying man's verse was . . . Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. (Lam 3:22 NIV)
- Ironically the preceding verse says, Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope. (Lam 3:21 NIV)

## 20 **Working Memory**

- So then why doesn't our moral hard drive -- our memory -- always automatically retrieve the information we have dubbed "useful and important."
- According to Richards J. Heuer, Jr, author of the Psychology of Intelligence Analysis, tells us we must order our memory into what he refers to as a "working memory."
- Working memory is simply a system for storing and managing information that is required to carry out complex tasks, such as learning, reasoning, and comprehension.
- The key to developing a "working memory" is found in how we memorize things through association, usage, and reinforcement.

## 21 **Abraham's Call**

- "For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." (Gen 18:19 NIV)
- This is a very interesting passage, but it shows how God intended to build the nation of Israel by parents passing on to their children guiding principles.

## 22 **Memorization in the Old Testament**

- Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.
  - Impress them on your children.
  - Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
  - Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.
  - Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

## 23 Memorization in the Old Testament

- Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.
  - Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
  - Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many . . .

## 24 Danger, Danger

- The greatest danger for us either living out or passing on godly values or guiding principles is those in whom we choose to associate with.
- As the Apostle Paul says, Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” (1 Cor 15:33 NIV)
- In fact, the major contributing factor in Israel’s demise was those they associated with.
- As it says in Psalms, They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them, but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. (Psa 106:34–35 NIV)

## 25 Danger, Danger

- Therefore the LORD was angry with his people and abhorred his inheritance. He handed them over to the nations, and their foes ruled over them. (Psa 106:40–41 NIV)
- Their enemies oppressed them and subjected them to their power. (Psa 106:42 NIV)
- However, once they came to their senses, God . . . took note of their distress when he heard their cry; for their sake he remembered his covenant and out of his great love he relented. (Psa 106:44–45 NIV)

## 26 Godly Principles

- Individuals like Justin Bieber can be taught godly principles, but if they don’t take measures to remember them, so that they can apply them in the circumstances of life, all the work to teach them those values can be lost.
- In fact, if they choose to hang around the wrong individuals all our work in teaching them can be wasted as well.

- These “wrong individuals” can be our relatives, friends, schoolmates, work associates, movies, TV shows, and even some people at church.
- In other words, we have to be careful who we associate with because they can lead us astray.

## 27 **Conclusion**

- So then, let us reinforce Godly Values and Principles in our lives by taking the steps to remember and apply them.
- Place them on your refrigerator, bathroom mirrors, in your car, and on your desk at school or work.
- Talk about them at your Cell Group meetings and when you’re at Starbucks having coffee with a friends.
- Why? Because when we live them out the God of peace will be with us.