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1. Write an honest and truthful two- or three-paragraph response for each of the following scenarios. In your response, explain why you decided on the action you did and provide biblical support.
   1. You are an employee at a fast-food restaurant in charge of the grill. It is busy today, and many orders are coming in fast. In the cooking process, you drop a hamburger patty on the floor. Your manager passes by and says, “Just pick it up and serve it.” What would you do?
   2. Pastor Jerry and his wife, Charlene, have become close friends with you and your family. Your pastor comes from a wealthy family and has an easy life overall. Charlene, however, was raised by a single mother. Her father died when she was young, and her childhood was difficult. Many times, she has said that Jerry was the best thing that could have happened to her. They have struggled to have a child, but so far, they are childless. One day, you are eating lunch in a restaurant alone, and you see Pastor Jerry sitting at a table with another male. Pastor Jerry and the other man are kissing passionately. He sees you, quickly walks over to you, and explains that he wants you to keep this a secret, but he is gay. He begs you not to tell anyone. Both men leave the restaurant together. Later that week, you see Charlene shopping for baby clothes. She tells you that is pregnant and very happy. What do you do?
   3. You are at the grocery store and see a very expensive roast while looking at the meat selection. You place it in your cart, thinking it will be a special treat for the family. However, when you get home, you notice that the cashier did not charge you for the roast. What do you do?
   4. Your teenage son has been getting into much trouble. First, he was arrested for shoplifting. Then, you were called by the school because he was in a fight. Oh yes, then there was that time the police smoking pot and drinking caught him. It has been difficult. However, one day he promises you he will do better. Sure enough, he seems to be cleaning up his act. Then, one night, you get a call from the police. Your son was arrested for an armed robbery. He was the driver of the getaway car. Do you go to the police station to support him or let him suffer whatever consequences the law gives? Why?
   5. One day, you are out shopping with a friend. As you pass an ATM, you notice several $20 bills sticking out of the machine. What do you do?
   6. Last year, you and your spouse made a considerable amount of money. Since your car was on its last legs and constantly in for costly repairs, you both decided to buy an expensive new car. The monthly payments were high, but you could afford it. Unfortunately, your spouse became unemployed a few months ago due to cutbacks. So, the money has been a bit difficult in the household. Last week, you received the car’s pink slip in the mail! You still had several years’ worth of payments. The bank made an error. What do you do?
2. Structure (Assignment evaluation includes the following structure below).
   1. Download the “OGS APA Course Assignments Template 7th Ed 2021” template from the General Helps folder in the AA-101 The Gathering Place Course on DIAL. Using the template, create the following pages.
   2. Title Page (Not included in page count).
   3. Copy and paste the assignment instructions from the syllabus starting on a new page after the title page, adhering to APA 7th edition style (APA 7 Workshop, Formatting, and Style Guide, APA 7 Quick Guide).
   4. Start the assignment on a new page after the copied assignment instructions.
   5. Document all sources in APA style, 7th edition (APA 7 Reference Example, APA 7 Quick Guide)
   6. Include a separate Works Cited page, formatted according to APA style, 7th edition (not in page count).
3. Submit through DIAL to the professor.

# [Fast Food Employee](#Fast_Food_Question)

The ethical question is, do I follow my boss’s instructions that conflict with the FDA regulations, or do I ignore his input and follow the federal rules on food service? Questions about how we should treat our customers also come into play.

I would remind my boss that the FDA would likely shut down the store if they found us serving “floor food.” If he pressed the issue, I would offer to buy the replacement burger as my conscience would bother me if I served “floor food” to the customer. Having worked at various fast-food restaurants, I know their floors are not sanitary, and the person would likely get food poisoning. If we chose not to respond with integrity, and the customer found out, they would probably not return (lost business) and report us to the authorities. I prefer being looked down upon for honesty than being praised for doing what is unscrupulous and inconsiderate (New American Standard Bible [NASB], 1960/2020, James 4:17; Colossians 3:17).

# [Secret Gay Pastor](#Gay_Pastor)

Unfortunately, all of us tend toward fleshly coping mechanisms and life choices, and pastors are no exception. There are various dilemmas in this scenario: honesty to the wife, the requested confidence of the pastor, the pastor’s behavior being deviant to scripture, and lastly, the unborn child, which could be affected by the outcome of the marriage. As a follower of Jesus, I must place the instruction of the Word of God in the highest regard and follow its standards above all others.

Two passages come to mind, Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:19-21 (NASB, 2020). In Matthew, we’re instructed to confront an individual privately and then “bring backup” if necessary. 1 Timothy adds a specification for church leaders: don’t accuse a leader without multiple witnesses. The leader will be judged more strictly (NASB, 2020, James 3:1). We need to bring more evidence at the beginning of a rebuke for the elder/leader. That said, the conversation is shorter in the sense that if they don’t respond to the rebuke, they are publically rebuked and ultimately put out of the church (NASB, 2020, 1 Tim 5:20).

As a Christian counselor, I realize that we all fall short. People need mercy, grace, and caring relationships to restore them to wholeness. But if people aren’t willing to repent, scripture is clear; we cannot condone sin, especially sexual immorality, in our churches (NASB, 2020, Romans 1).

I would first confront this pastor individually to understand his willingness to change. If this is the lifestyle he chose, I won’t hesitate to make this public through church leadership channels. At the same time, I would want to minister to his wife, whose life will be turned upside down. She would need a support group and a loving community to come around her. Ultimately the goal of rebuke is the restoration of the person (NASB, 2020, 1 Cor 5:5).

# [Unpaid Grocery Store Item](#Unpaid_Grocery_Item)

I have been in this situation before! I always go back and pay for the unpaid item. I have no intention of stealing or taking what isn’t mine. That said, the responses of the clerks have been diverse and interesting. Some have thanked me or even asked why I returned to pay the bill. Others have gotten angry as though I intentionally stole it. Regardless, I try to live “unto God” and let Him work out the details (NASB, 2020, Col 3:23).

Occasionally there are other unexpected costs for doing what is right. If you catch the mistake before walking out the door, you can quickly go inside to return the item. If you drove some distance home before realizing what had happened, returning is both a time and fuel investment. However, a clear conscience is a reward in and of itself (NASB, 2020, Hebrews 13:18).

# [Teenage Son Caught in Armed Robbery](#Son_In_Trouble)

The short answer is yes to both questions. I would support my son, his value, and my love for him while allowing due process also to occur.

Having worked in a residential program for troubled teens for ten years, I’ve learned that teens need consequences to learn from their mistakes. Parents that protect their children from natural outcomes also shelter them from learning. In this regard, my son would need to feel at least some weight from their choices. How else would they learn?

Secondly, yes, I would need to support my son. The story of the Prodigal Son comes to mind (NASB, 2020, Luke 15:11-32). As a child of God, he is a new creation in Christ. His old ways of functioning are on the way out. I would affirm my love for him and come alongside him for the journey without condoning his actions. Depending on how repentant he is and how much he’s learned in the last few hours, I might suggest the police a lesser sentence for a first offense, but if he needed to serve some time to understand his situation, then I would tearfully be receptive to that.

The prodigal needed the opportunity to run away to learn that he was a loved sonNASB, 2020, Luke 15:11-32). We are no different. God graciously lets us “taste and see” how life works through our moments of faith and chasing after the flesh (NASB, 2020, Psalm 34:8). We must do the same for our kids.

# [$20 Bill in ATM Machine](#ATM_Free_Money)

I’d probably wonder why no one else has already taken the money! Is this a prank? Similar to earlier questions, I would do the honorable thing. You wouldn’t get away with stealing anyway, as they have cameras on ATMs! Spiritually, God sees all I do, and I wouldn’t feel right just taking what is not mine (NASB, 2020, Exodus; 20:15; Prov 5:21).

On the other hand, if I found $20 blowing around the Walmart parking lot, I probably wouldn’t have a hard time pocketing it after briefly checking to see if someone was missing it. Perhaps I would give it to a homeless person who hangs out around Walmart. I suppose if there were no apparent leads to whom to give it to then, I would feel I could keep it.

# [Early Pink Slip](#Early_Pink_Slip)

While I’ve never had this happen to me, I have had checks come to me from various utilities and insurance companies, etc. Typically, I’ve called to try and find out why they were sending me money. Occasionally they could answer that question, and other times not! As missionaries, God has sometimes used unconventional ways to meet our needs (NASB, 2020, Phil 4:19). (Like when $1,000 was taped to our front door in an envelope without name or explanation!)

In this “pink slip” scenario, I would do what I’ve done with utilities in the past; call and find out why we received the check. If it were a mistake, I would return it. If there were a legitimate reason to keep it, I’d praise the Lord!

Sometimes, just doing the right thing has gotten us an “official” blessing where we would otherwise be stealing something. I recall Amazon sending us items we didn’t purchase. We could have hoarded and kept them, but it would have been dishonest. Instead, we called and told them. More often than not, they’ve told us to keep the items anyway! So what was an accident became an official blessing we could keep without feeling guilty about it. God is good!

# WORKS CITED

New American Standard Bible [NASB]. (2020). Lockman Foundation. (Original work published 1960)