

Why Couple Decisions are Better Decisions

➤ Why Make Decisions Together?

1. Because we are _____
The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. (Genesis 2:23-24)
 - 1) The uniqueness of the marriage relationship emphasized by _____
"Haven't you read," He replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Matthew 19:4-6)
 - 2) The uniqueness of the marriage relationship reiterated by _____
"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:31-32)
 - 3) Our oneness is also like the oneness of the _____
Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Literally translated, "The Lord our God, the composite or united God is one." ...a profound mystery. (Deuteronomy 6:4)
2. Because it is _____.
Proverbs 11:14 — For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.
Prov. 13:10 — Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.
Prov. 15:22 — Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

➤ What Couple Decision Making Does NOT Mean

1. It does not mean you lose your individual _____
2. It does not mean that you _____ alike
3. It doesn't mean you will never have _____
4. It doesn't mean decisions which does not _____ must be made by both of you

➤ What Couple Decision Making Does Mean

1. That both spouses talk over _____ decisions that affect both _____ either makes up his/her own mind about the matter
2. That both spouses discuss and agree on decisions that affect both before _____ others or _____ on a decision
3. That a satisfactory solution is reached that can be _____ by both
4. That the goal becomes _____ and our _____

Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight [will direct your paths].

➤ Chat Response

1. Case Study

Pretend this couple is coming to you for advice: A Christian husband and wife have lived in the same town for 10 years and are very active in their church. The husband has a fine position with a good company, but he does not like his work. He has been offered another position — 3,000 miles away, in a colder climate and at less pay. He wants to accept the position because it is the type of work he has always wanted to do. He talks with his wife and tells her he is thinking of taking the job. She does not want him to accept it and gives her reasons. She says she definitely won't move. What would you advise them to do? (Type in chat box how you would advise them. It's best to agree with each other before offering this advice.)

2. For the “couple decisions” you listed before, indicate ways both husbands and wives can display an “attitude of Christ.”

➤ Conclusion

Now that you know these things, DO THEM. That is the path of blessing. (John 13:17 LB)

➤ Couple Sharing Questions

1. Do we need to change any of our decision-making practices? Which ones?
2. What can we do to make sure our decisions made are ones we can both OWN?
3. Hold hands and pray together (if you cannot pray out loud, pray silently): “Lord, we want to be more like you. You showed us how to be servants. We want to be your servants and servants to one another. Help us make decisions based on your will and what will bring us closer to each other. And help us make decisions Your way. In Jesus name, Amen.”