



P-A-U-S-E Before You Act!

Calvary Baptist Church

2/5/2012

Proverbs 18:13



- I. **P – Pray (Mt. 26:39) Have I taken this matter to the Lord in prayer and have I waited for His leading? Prayer Can Stop Us, Start Us, Steer Us.**
- II. **A – Attitude (1 Sam. 25:17; Prov. 3:7; 14:16; 16:32; 22:24; 25:28; 29:11) Have I waited until my emotions and my spirit are in check before I act?**
- III. **U – Understand (Proverbs 18:13) Have I taken the time to get an understanding of the matter from every angle, every perspective?**
- IV. **S – Sin (John 18:10-11; Mt. 26:51-52; Luke 22:50-51) Has God revealed that the action I am about to take is wrong?**
- V. **E – Effect**
Have I thought through the effect(s) that will result from my action?
 - A. **Have I Considered the Effect Upon My Savior? (Ps. 78:40-42; Titus 2:14; Eph. 4:30; John 11:35; Rev. 5:6; 1 Thess. 2:11-12)**
 - B. **Have I Considered the Effect Upon Sinners?**
 - When I act, the world is watching, and what I do can harm the cause of Christ!
- C. **Have I Considered the Effect Upon the Saints?**
 1. **The Effect of a Positive Example**
 - a. **It is Profitable (Titus 3:8)**
Careful to maintain: Lit., Take thought about the manner in which you stand before men.
 - b. **It is Proof (Of the reality of my faith) (1 John 4:20-21)**
 - c. **It is a Provocation (To Good Works by Others) (Heb. 10:24)**
Consider – *katanoeo* To observe fully. *Strong's*
Provoke – An incitement to good. *Strong's*
 2. **The Effect of a Poor Example**
QUOTE: No man is completely worthless. He can always serve as a horrible example. *15,000 Illustrations*

DEFINITION: (“scandal”); probably from a derivative of [<G2578>](#) (*kampto*); a *trap-stick* (*bent sapling*), i.e. **snare** (figurative cause of displeasure or sin) :- occasion to fall (of stumbling), offence, thing that offends, stumblingblock. *Strong's*

- Basically, this word refers to that which causes someone to be tripped up in their faith.
 - What we are talking about is that **sin** which causes someone to stumble and fall in their walk with God.
 - It could come from a poor **response** to someone who is in sin.
 - We want all of our actions to be toward **restoration**, not toward resignation.
- a. **The Prohibition of Offenses (Rom. 14:13; 1 Cor. 10:32)**
 - b. **The Problem of Offenses (Rev. 2:14; James 3:2)**
 - James tells us that what we **say** causes others to stumble even more than what we do.
 - We must be very careful to restrain ourselves from hateful **words**.
 - c. **The Punishment of Offenses**
 1. **God will punish those who cause believers to stumble. (Mt. 18:7)**
 2. **We are to mark and avoid those whose sin causes believers to stumble. (Rom. 16:17)**
Mark – *skopeo* Carefully **observe** them and keep your eye on what they are doing.
Avoid – *ekklino* **Decline** (as opposed to recline, or dine) them. Present imperative, “continue to keep away from them, keep on staying away.”

CONCLUDING APPLICATION (1 Tim. 4:12; Gal. 6:7-10)