

## A FRAMEWORK FOR THINKING THROUGH DECISIONS

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services  
www.accounseling.org

### Preferences



- **Working Definition:** Personal Opinions, Decisions, and Choices
- **Examples:** your favorite food, color, or way to relax are all preferences. Two individuals may agree or disagree about each other's preferences, but neither is wrong.
- **When Differences Occur:** Agree to disagree

### House Rules



- **Working Definition:** Rules of conduct established by families or groups of closely-related people
- **Examples:** How to educate children; curfew times for teens, family traditions.
- **When Differences Occur:** Live according to your conscience before God *AND* respect that others may choose differently

### Organizational Norms



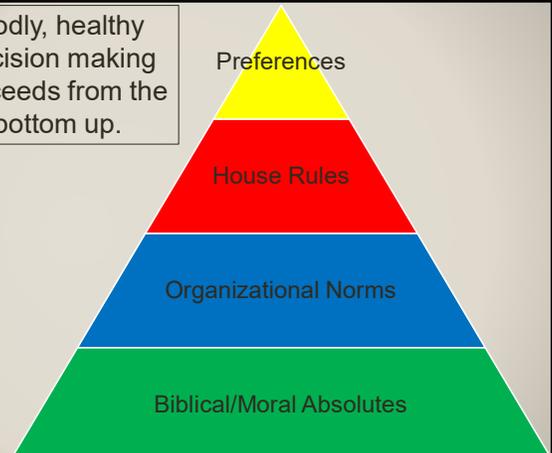
- **Working Definition:** Standards of conduct, behavior, dress, and participation/non-participation in activities established by businesses, churches, and social/service organizations.
- **Examples:** Policies, practices, and procedures put in place by an organization. This level is where many church customs, traditions, and practices are found.
- **When Difference Occur:** Respect authority and be submissive

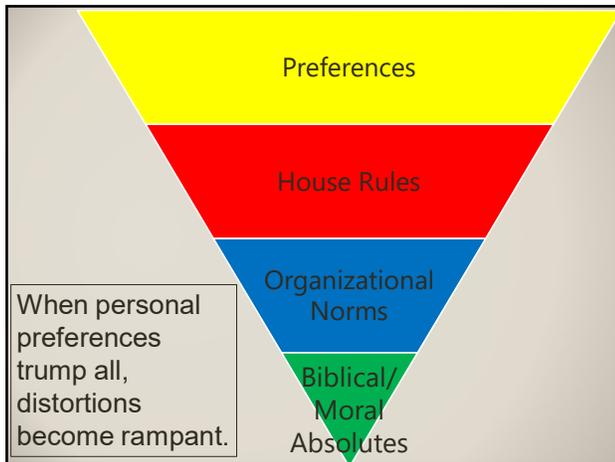
### Biblical/Moral Absolutes



- **Working Definition:** God's moral law that is explicitly stated in the Bible as either command or principle. True for all people, in all places, at all times.
- **Example:** *Exodus 20:14, "Thou shalt not commit adultery"* is a biblical absolute. Adultery is sin in God's eyes – period.
- **When Differences Occur:** Don't compromise

Godly, healthy decision making proceeds from the bottom up.





### Take-Away Points: Decision Making

- **Encourage:** Encourage one another to make decisions in a bottom-up manner.
- **Identify and Communicate:** Clarify which level or levels are being discussed. Conflicts often occur when individuals are speaking from different starting points.
- **Challenge:** Lovingly challenge each other if there are times when we make decisions based on inappropriate assumptions (e.g., treats a Biblical Absolute as if it were a Preference or vice versa).