

A.M. OUTLINE  
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LAWFUL, BUT NOT EXPEDIENT (HELPFUL)

(1 John 2:1-6)

INTRODUCTION

(1 Corinthians 10:23) "All things are lawful for me, but **all things are not expedient (helpful):**  
all things are lawful for me, but **all things edify not.**"

(Luke 10:41-42) "Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed,  
and Mary has **chosen that good part**, which will not be taken away from her."

"**Lawful**" - legal; legitimate; permitted; allowable; authorized; non-criminal.

"**Not expedient**" - currently not the best choice; not suitable at this time; impractical;  
unwise; inadvisable; imprudent.

When an activity has no clear prohibition, how do I determine my choice? Let's ask ...

1. DOES IT LEAD TOWARD SIN? (Romans 13:14; 2 Timothy 2:22)

Look ahead to determine if it is a step in the wrong direction; an end-view.

2. DOES IT WEAKEN ME SPIRITUALLY? (Romans 14:18-19)

Follow-up question: Do those who participate in this appear to lose interest in prayer,  
Bible study, worship attendance, fellowship, ... ? - "all things edify not"

3. IS IT WASTEFUL?

Does it take my time and treasure away from family and God?

4. WILL IT HARM MY BODY? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Avoid the excesses, vices, and abuses that will shorten life.  
Don't go to Coney Island and participate in the Hot Dog Eating Contest.  
(last year's winner ate 51 hotdogs, 13,000 calories; but, hotdogs are lawful)

5. IN GENERAL, DOES IT INTERFERE WITH MY FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD?

(John 15:14) "You are My friends if you do whatsoever I command you."

6. WILL IT HINDER THE GOSPEL? MY INFLUENCE?

(Romans 14:16; Titus 2:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:22)

7. WILL IT PLACE ME IN BAD COMPANY?

CLOSE - strive to live so that you have no regrets (so that you may run for public office).