

Principles vs. Preference

Those who act out of
preference
prefer not to have
principles.

Principles promote standards;
preference pursues pleasure.
Principles come from morality;
preference stems from whim.
Principles build character;
preference weakens it.

Principles should
guide preference
and direct it.

Preference tries to
disguise principles
and disregard them.

For example,
if murder and stealing
are forbidden
out of principle,
why should sexual license
be allowed
out of preference?

Or, if property damage
is not allowed
out of principle,
why should people damage
be tolerated
out of preference?

Preference
is private
and leads to
isolation.

Principles are public
and build
community.

As with a house or bridge,
so too with life:
you can't construct them
by preference;
you must proceed according
to principles.

By the way,
who decides
what is forbidden
by principle
but allowed
by preference?

Usually, those who live
without principles!

© *Msgr. Walter Niebrzydowski*
September 20, 1992
Fr-Walter@nyc.rr.com
www.fatherwaltersparish.org