**How to Fix a Bad Decision**

By Chris Russell

**...How to Fix a Morally-Bad Decision**

**1)   Confess it to God.**

[1 John 1:9](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/1-john/1-9.html)

The first step to fixing a sinful mistake is to confess it directly to God. By “confess,” I mean that you should agree with God about how bad it was and ask Him to forgive you for what you did. Amazingly, once we confess our sins to God, He will cast them as far as the east is from the west, and He will remember them no more.

**2)   Stop doing that bad thing.**

[Proverbs 28:13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/proverbs/28-13.html)

It’s one thing to confess your sin, and it is another thing to forsake your sin. You must do everything you can to turn away from that sin. This begins with an utter commitment to do whatever it takes to change.

**3)   Wrap your head around everything God has said about that issue in the Scriptures.**

[Joshua 1:8](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/joshua/1-8.html)

It is absolutely essential that you learn everything you can about what God has to say about that sinful mistake you have made. When you learn His thoughts, you will begin to pave a path away from that sin and toward restoration. But you just can’t wing it. You must study the Scriptures to know God’s heart on that issue.

**4)   Ask for forgiveness from any who were hurt because of your bad decision.**

[Matthew 5:23-24](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/matthew/passage.aspx?q=matthew+5:23-24)

When we sin, we often hurt others. Sometimes we don’t even realize how badly we’ve hurt others while we are in the midst of the sin. So, take time to look around and take an honest look at what harm you may have caused others. Then, go to those you have hurt and apologize and do whatever you can to fix that hurt. You may not be able to fix it completely, and they may not even forgive you. But you need to do all that is within your power to make it right.

**5)   Set up guardrails in your life that will help you keep from doing that again.**

[Proverbs 27:12](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/proverbs/27-12.html)

[Proverbs 26:11](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/proverbs/26-11.html)

We all have sinful desires, and so we must establish guardrails that will keep us from careening off the road spiritually and wiping out in sin. If you struggle with Internet sin, then enlist an accountability partner who can monitor your online activity. If you struggle with anger, then enlist an accountability partner (a godly friend) who will lean into you to help you do right and correct you when you do wrong. Set up boundaries that will make it impossible for you to do that wrong thing even if you wanted to do that.

**6)   Seek godly counsel for solutions in getting back on track.**

[Proverbs 11:14](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/proverbs/11-14.html)

We all need people to speak into our lives to give us a fresh perspective on how to fix our problems. None of us can solve all of our own problems alone. When you find godly advisors who can help to guide you, you will be amazed at how great of ideas they can come up with at times that will help you to find victory. They will see things that you cannot see yourself. It’s sort of like you’re walking around with a “kick-me” sign on your back. Others can see it, but you cannot. A godly counselor can help to remove it from your back.

**7)   Surround yourself with a godly support system that will help you to do right.**

[Hebrews 3:13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/hebrews/3-13.html)

In addition to one or two close advisors, you need a whole network of Christian friends who can help you to do right in your life. And the best places to find these close friends will be at church, small group Bible studies, and when you get involved in ministry. These relationships will make a huge difference in strengthening you and helping you to stay on the right path.

**8)   Make a long-term commitment to change.**

[Matthew 16:24-26](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/matthew/passage.aspx?q=matthew+16:24-26)

To change, you must be committed to the long term. Plenty of people get into trouble in their lives and show up at church to find a “quick fix.” But then you often see those people fade away after just a few weeks or months. They return to the same old paths of sin that got them into trouble in the first place. So, up front, you must understand that this is a long-term commitment, and you must be committed to changing over the long haul. The Christian life is not a sprint; it is a marathon.



Chris Russell has spent the past 25 years actively involved in ministry through pastoring, church planting, writing, Christian radio, and special speaking around the country and in seven different countries. He is passionate about communicating the truths of God's Word in a creative, highly-relevant way.

Chris has three kids and happens to be married to his best friend, Leigh. He currently pastors a church on the north side of Cincinnati. When he's not pastoring or blogging he runs a real estate company in his "spare" time. He believes that A.D.D. (Attention Deficit Disorder) is one of his 'spiritual gifts.'

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