

Count the cost.

Consider the cost to your self-life and felt-needs of what you are giving up / dying to.
Consider the cost of becoming godly in this area of your life (and weigh it against not changing).

The possible immediate and future
cost to your self-life of changing

1. The loss of familiar privileges and personal benefits due to dying to self and selfishness, and putting on godliness.
2. The loss of sinful yet self-soothing thoughts, behaviors, pleasures, comforts, feelings of security, and happiness in the face of those circumstances that trigger your felt-need to practice your sin.
3. Having to repeatedly use self-discipline (force yourself against your inner inclinations) to persevere in not doing what you know is wrong (when tempted) and do what you know is right.
4. The daily burden of hard, even fatiguing efforts required to do your part in putting off sin and putting on godliness, such as daily preparation, guarding thoughts, and vigilance against temptation.
5. Times of uncertainty and lack of clarity as you go from the known (life with the sin) to the unknown (godliness in that area of life).
6. Times of frustration, disappointment, discouragement as you experience the setbacks of returning to your old, sinful way (i.e., two steps forward, one step backwards).
7. Possible loss of current happiness in your closest relationships, because when you change, the sin(s) of those nearest to you become more evident, and sometimes they don't want to change.
8. Possible loss of acceptance, respect, status, job advancement, job, friends, freedom, and even your life.

The positive consequences and gain
to you and your spiritual life of changing

1. A growing secureness in knowing you are making an honest effort to please Him who made you, saved you, provides for you, protects you, loves you, and requires godliness from you.
2. Growth in hungering and thirsting for righteousness, wanting to please God, and wanting to value God above all else.
3. Growth in personal integrity leading to living up to what you know, honest self-assessment leading to honest self-judgment, godly thinking leading to single-mindedness, clearer vision for discerning right from wrong, increased prayer leading to intimate communion with God, a broken and contrite heart over sin leading to a heart-felt sadness along with tears as you talk to God about it, and memorizing and meditating on God's word.
4. Growth in trust of God to the point of a settled confidence in God.
5. Growth in wanting to fellowship with God which is now made possible by the kind of godly life that enables intimate fellowship.
6. Growth in loving God leading to willingly making all other (worthy) loves subservient to your love for God.
7. Improvement in all other relationships, at least from your side.
8. Growth toward Christian maturity, emotional stability, inner peace, godly wisdom, discernment, witnessing, and understanding the meaning and intent of God's word.
9. Noticeable decrease in self-inflicted problems and difficult times.