

1 Corinthians

Just because you can...

Series Overview

Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth is a case-study in what makes an unhealthy church. In this series, we'll explore what made that church so unhealthy as a guide to becoming the healthy church God has called us to be.

Sermon Introduction

“Just Because You Can...doesn't mean you should”. While Christians are free in Christ, that freedom must be guided by love and responsibility. Paul reminds believers that not everything permissible is beneficial—our choices should honor God, protect others from stumbling, and reflect Christ's character. True freedom isn't doing whatever we want, but using our liberty to love God and others in a way that brings Him glory.

Key Passages: 1 Corinthians 6, 8 & 10

Discussion questions:

1. Freedom and Boundaries:

Paul wrote, “I have the right to do anything—but not everything is beneficial.”

What are some areas of life where we might technically have freedom, yet exercising that freedom could be unwise or spiritually harmful?

2. The Purpose of Freedom:

In Galatians 5:1, Paul says, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”

How does understanding freedom “for” something—rather than just freedom “from” something—change the way we live as believers?

3. The Law of Love vs. the Law of Liberty:

How can we balance our personal liberty in Christ with our responsibility to love others?

Can you think of a time when laying down your freedom helped protect or encourage

someone else's faith?

4. Guarding the Temple:

Paul reminds us, "You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

In what practical ways can we honor God with our bodies today—in how we use our time, our health, and our choices?

5. Avoiding Stumbling Blocks:

Chapter 8 warns against letting our freedom become a "stumbling block to the weak."

What might a modern "meat sacrificed to idols" look like today—something that's not sinful in itself but could harm another believer's conscience?

6. The Ultimate Filter:

Paul concludes, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

How can this verse serve as a practical "filter" for daily decisions—especially in gray areas where Scripture doesn't give a direct command?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality of meeting God. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God's power.

- Praise God, in gratefulness, for the freedom we have through Christ
- Ask him to help you use that freedom wisely in a way that brings Him glory.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and help you be more sensitive to His leading.