

WHAT IS OUR PRIMARY GOAL?

1 Corinthians 10:14-33

AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD AVOID ANYTHING THAT INTERFERES WITH OUR UNION WITH CHRIST

- “So then, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. 15 I am speaking as to sensible people. Judge for yourselves what I am saying. 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, since all of us share the one bread. 18 Consider the people of Israel. Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? 19 What am I saying then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, but I do say that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons! 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot share in the Lord’s table and the table of demons. 22 Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?” (1 Corinthians 10:14-22)
- Be aware and prayerful at all times so that you do not engage in activity that is designed to divide your loyalty to the Lord.
- “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” 37 He said to him, ‘**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.** 38 This is the greatest and most important command. 39 The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

AS CHRISTIANS OUR PRIMARY GOALS SHOULD BE TO GLORIFY GOD AND LEAD OTHERS TO JESUS

- 23 ‘Everything is permissible,’ but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible,’ but not everything builds up. 24 No one is to seek his own good, but the good of the other person.

25 Eat everything that is sold in the meat market, without raising questions for the sake of conscience, 26 since the earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it. 27 If any of

the unbelievers invites you over and you want to go, eat everything that is set before you, without raising questions for the sake of conscience. 28 But if someone says to you, ‘This is food from a sacrifice,’ do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience. 29 I do not mean your own conscience, but the other person’s. For why is my freedom judged by another person’s conscience? 30 If I partake with thanksgiving, why am I criticized because of something for which I give thanks?

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or Greeks or the church of God, 33 just as I also try to please everyone in everything, not seeking my own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved.” (1 Corinthians 10:23-33)

- Questions we should regularly ask ourselves:
 - **Are my actions beneficial to others, or just myself?**
 - **Do my actions build up others?**
 - **Am I seeking the good of others?**
 - **Will my actions negatively impact a lesser mature Christian or a non-believer?**
 - **Do I regularly express thankfulness for God’s provision?**
 - **Am I genuinely seeking to glorify God with my attitude, actions, and speech?**
 - **Do my life and decisions point people to Jesus or away from Him?**
- Considering others when making decisions about what we do is **not** a matter of worrying about what people think, but how we can live in such a way to draw others into a saving relationship with Jesus.
- “**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.** 4 **Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.**” (Philippians 2:3-4)

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- In verse 14 Paul says to “flee idolatry.” What does that mean?
- Why is Paul appealing to them to flee idolatry?
- What is the main message of vss. 14-33?

Understanding:

- What are some ways we see others/ourselves actually run towards “idolatry” rather than flee?
- We are all engaged in a spiritual battle with demonic forces. Why can we live without fear of demons/demonic activity?
- What principles from 1 Corinthians 10:14-33 can we apply to situations in our lives that Bible doesn’t speak directly to? In other words, how should we approach decision making when the Bible doesn’t specifically address our particular decision?
- Why is it wrong to only focus on our own goals and life while avoiding seeking the good of others?
- How does our view of God, Jesus, and eternity impact how we make decisions in this life?
- If we truly believe that only those who have been born again, become Christians, will enter eternity with the Lord and those who reject Him will be eternally cast out into suffering, why do you think there is such a lack of commitment to sharing the gospel with others and living in such a way to point people to Him?
- What will you do differently after processing this study?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

Additional Notes