



Message Series Guide

Imperfect Church – I Corinthians

Part 16 – The Believer's Freedom

I Corinthians 10:23-11:1

For followers of Christ, asking the question, "Is this lawful?" is the wrong question. Instead, we should ask "Will this glorify God?" and "Will this build up my neighbor?" In I Corinthians 10:23-11:1, Paul instructs the Corinthian Christians to seek edification over gratification and seek liberty over legalism. The key message of this passage is that our freedom in Christ is meant to be held onto loosely, especially if by giving up our freedom we help someone else find it in Christ.

READ:

I Corinthians 10:23-11:1 • I Corinthians 14:26 • Ephesians 4:29 • Romans 14:20-21

- In verses 23-33, Paul continues with his discussion regarding eating food that may or may not have been involved in idol worship. Notice the quotations around parts of verse 23. What do they signify?
- What does it mean that all things are lawful but not all things are profitable, all things are lawful but not all things edify (verse 23)? What is the guiding principle on our freedom? (10:24)
- What three scenarios does Paul outline in these verses? What is his instruction in each of the scenarios? What are the underlying principles that guide Paul's instructions in these three scenarios? See verses 23, 24, 26, 31, 32, & 33
- What did Paul mean in verse 33 when he said that he tried to please everyone? What was Paul's main goal in seeking to please others.
- What is the glory of God? How can something as basic as eating and drinking bring glory to God? How can we live in such a way that all we do brings glory to God?
- What did Paul mean by telling the Corinthian believers to imitate him? (11:1)

DISCUSS:

- Are there things that are technically not sinful to do or say, but are not profitable or edifying? What does it mean to seek the edification of others over the gratification of self?
- Discuss some examples of how Christians indulge in legalism today. Contrast those example with how Christians can enjoy freedom in Christ.
- Paul calls the new believers in Corinth to imitate him as he imitates Christ. If someone imitated you right now, what would their walk with Christ look like?
- How does concentrating on glorifying God in all things help us to forget about our own glory?
- How does seeking the profit of others instead of our own lead to others being saved?

PRAY:

Pray about the action steps you need to take this week in order to glorify God in all things.

RESPOND:

Identify three ways you can glorify God this week in your words, thoughts and/or actions.



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Three questions to ask when we are unsure if we should do or say something?

- Is it a sin?
- Is it helpful?
- Does it benefit others?

We should seek edification over gratification.

We should seek liberty over legalism.

We should seek open doors to share Christ over opportunities to condemn sinners.

We should seek self-sacrifice over self-indulgence.

Quote:

When we are consumed with God's glory, we forget about our own. – Hannah Anderson