

Learning and Living the Bible Together

Lessons from 1 Corinthians

1 Cor. 8, 10:23-33

Liberty and Love

As we start chapter 8, we begin a section of 1 Corinthians addressing “liberty”. Paul is addressing the question of, “What is OK for me to do? I am free in Christ but others feel differently, how am I supposed to act? We say we are free but what is freedom?”. Paul addresses those questions in this passage. Here is a key message to remember:

—> Liberty does not mean that disobedience to Scripture is acceptable.

How am I to deal with issues of liberty?

1. Make sure your knowledge is balanced with love. (8:1-3)
 - guard against knowledge leading to an uncaring and prideful heart
 - use your knowledge for building up others and not puffing up yourself
 - have a daily walk with God. When we walk in love with God, we love others.
 - true knowledge results in loving others and loving God
2. Verify what you know as truth from Scripture. Scripture, not your opinion, is truth. (8:4-6; Psalm 115:3-7, Acts 19:26)
3. Recognize and respect that people are at different levels of maturity and convictions. (8:7; Rom. 14:1-12,14)
 - some need to grow in Christ and learn more about their freedom
 - some fear freedom and like the comfort of rules
 - some were taught and raised in a more “rules based” environment
 - some have relied on church direction over Biblical direction
 - some have a conviction or an unclear conscience about a specific action
4. Ask yourself whether your action(s) will impact your relationship with God. If you are trying to justify your actions, then you need to ask yourself why. (8:8)

5. Ask yourself whether your actions will cause another to stumble in their Christian walk. (8:9-13)

- our actions must be led by an attitude of ministry to others and love for others

- * Encourage others to grow in Christ. Use your maturity and knowledge to build up others.
- * Realize the impact of your actions on the life of others
- * Recognize your insensitivity to others is sin against God
- * Adjust your lifestyle so that you do not hinder the Christian walk of others

6. Seek to do what is best and do not abuse your freedom. Check the attitude of your heart. Make sure your actions are intended for the best. (10:23-30)

7. Make sure your actions do not bring dishonor to the body of Christ. (10:32-33)

8. Make sure actions attract others to the Gospel and do not hinder others from salvation. Stay focused on our mission given to us from Christ. (10:32-33)

9. Bring glory to God with your actions each day. Live for His glory. (10:31)

—> Love is to direct our actions.

(Matt. 5:44; Mark 12:31; Rom. 14:15; John 13:34-35; Col. 3:14; 1 Pet. 4:8)